This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

3987. f. 348/2

THE NEW CODE, 1871.

THE

USEFUL KNOWLEDGE
READING BOOKS

ADAPTED TO

THE USE OF BOARD-SCHOOLS AND
OTHERS UNDER GOVERNMENT INSPECTION.

EDITED BY THE

REV. E. T. STEVENS, B.A. OXON., A.K.C. LOND.
CURATE OF SANDFORD-ON-THAMES;
and the
REV. CHARLES HOLE, F.R.G.S.
HEAD MASTER OF NORTH CHEAM HOUSE SCHOOL, SURREY;
FORMERLY HEAD MASTER OF ST. THOMAS'S COLLEGIATE SCHOOL, CEYLON:

EDITORS OF 'THE GRADE LESSON BOOKS' &c.

GIRLS' SECOND STANDARD.

LONDON:
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
1872.

The Editors venture to call the attention of Teachers and Managers of Schools to their

INTRODUCTORY LESSON BOOK,

embracing Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, as preparatory to the First Standard under the New Code, 1871.

They also beg to refer to their series of

GRADE LESSON BOOKS,

especially adapted to the New Code, 1871, and embracing Reading, Spelling, Writing, and Arithmetic.

These books will be found very suitable for use alternately with the Useful Knowledge Series, as required by the Committee of Council on Education.

They are also specially adapted as Home Lesson Books in all the essential subjects of the Code Examinations.

☞ The Editors desire to call the attention of Teachers to the notices on pages viii and xii of this volume.

BIBLIOTHECA · BODLEIANA ·

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE

FIRST EDITION

OF

USEFUL KNOWLEDGE READING BOOKS.

SERIES FOR BOYS.
SERIES FOR GIRLS.

IN SIX STANDARDS EACH.

THE EDITORS of these Series have been led to undertake their production by the fact that, for our Elementary Schools, there is an acknowledged want of books combining facility in teaching to read with the inculcation of such useful knowledge as is calculated to prepare the young to enter upon the practical duties of life with intelligent and well-furnished minds.

In attempting to produce such a work, the chief difficulty is that of supplying useful knowledge in a form sufficiently attractive, and so suited to the capacities of children as to awaken their interest and excite in them a thirst for knowledge; in truth, to effect a threefold object, namely, to teach them to read, to cultivate in their minds a love of reading, and, at the same time, to impart sound and useful instruction in those matters relating to every-day life, *for which no special times can be set apart in the daily routine of an elementary school.*

Hitherto this difficulty has seemed insuperable; and this has led to the production of books addressed almost exclusively to the imagination—the moral and emotional nature of children—to the almost total omission of subjects of practical utility.

Although it must be allowed that a very gratifying degree of success has attended the use of such books, and it cannot be wished that they should be superseded, as they certainly fulfil a very important office in the training of the children in elementary schools, the Editors believe it is generally felt by all thoughtful friends of elementary education, that the school means of training the young will be very insufficient, unless, in addition to books of this class, others be supplied which shall afford more practical information. Also, it is found in the working of a school that a double set of reading-books is very advantageous, and teachers will readily confess that the benefit derived from an occasional change of books more than counterbalances the slight additional expense which is entailed.

The great difficulty, however, which has been mentioned above, has not, as far as the Editors' knowledge extends, hitherto been overcome.

For the most part, those reading-books which aim at giving useful information to their young readers, have failed in presenting what is attractive and interesting, and adapted to the minds of children. The present Editors believe that this comparative failure may be explained partly on the ground that the books are written rather by theorists than by persons practically acquainted, as teachers, with the minds of children, and partly that the extracts are taken from writers whose ideas and language fly far above their heads; while not unfrequently too many lessons are prepared by the same hand, and thus the books acquire a monotonous and wearisome character.

A further mistake in such books has been made by the introduction of subjects involving technical teaching, which the Editors feel sure can be imparted effectually only through manuals specially treating the several subjects.

The Useful Knowledge Reading Books, therefore, aim chiefly at giving information that shall be valuable in itself, and that shall also lay a firm basis for any special technical education that may be afterwards entered upon. This foundation will best be laid by imparting to boys, whose livelihood must be drawn from the soil, some knowledge of its products and of the method of dealing with it; and by supplying, in the case of girls, as far as books can do, the immediate and indispensable need of a real and solid acquaintance with the practical matters involved in the management of a home. It is, further, obvious that much information may be given of the uses to which agricultural and mineral products may be put without entering into technicalities; and in this respect it is hoped the present series will not be found wanting.

The Editors of the Useful Knowledge Reading Books sincerely desire that they may not be misunderstood in these remarks. They make them in no captious spirit, but merely as explaining the difficulties in the way of producing a really suitable series of Useful Knowledge Reading Books; and as indicating the causes of the defects which are admitted by practical persons to prevail in most existing books of the kind.

In determining, therefore, the principles which should guide them in the production of these series, the Editors set before themselves the following points, and have done their best to carry them out:—

1. The lessons contained in the books must

impart *useful knowledge*, including in this moral teaching.

2. They must be concise, yet comprehensive.

3. They must have variety and attractiveness in style, and be level with the capacities of the children for whom they are intended.

4. They must not treat of subjects technically, technical teaching being inappropriate to such books, and above the capacities of the children for whom they are intended.

5. Looking at the fact that the pursuits and interests of girls are, for the most part, different from those of boys, although they have much in common, *it would be useful and desirable to present a series drawn up especially for girls.* (This series, the Editors hope, will be considered particularly valuable, presenting, as it does, the results of the experience and knowledge of those who, *having devoted their time and talents to the training and management of the young of their own sex*, must be peculiarly, and it may be almost said exclusively, qualified to produce lessons suited to the wants and capacities of girls.)

6. To carry out the idea, many coadjutors must be obtained specially qualified for the work.

The Editors, feeling assured that schoolmasters and schoolmistresses actually engaged in teaching the young are best qualified to write lessons calculated to interest boys and girls, and adapted to their capacities, appealed therefore to many teachers of approved ability to aid them in this important work—an appeal which, they are thankful to say, has been responded to in the best spirit; and they have great pleasure in announcing that they have been assisted in the work in hand by some of the best educated and most experienced of the trained and certificated masters and mistresses of elementary schools, and have also received the kind aid of personal friends connected with educational work. With such invaluable help, they have been able to produce two series of books—one for BOYS and another for GIRLS—which they hope will thoroughly meet the wants of the classes for whose instruction they are intended.

NOTICE TO TEACHERS.

I. The Committee of Council on Education now require that each School subject to Inspection shall be provided with TWO COMPLETE SETS OF READING-BOOKS, and that the children presented for examination shall show an acquaintance with the SUBJECT MATTER of the Lessons contained in their respective standards.

II. Her Majesty's Inspectors require in Schools, where Singing is not taught from notes, that the children shall be able to sing at least six songs from memory with correct words, tune, and time. The Editors have therefore inserted in each standard of this series several pieces of poetry which have been set to music, in order that the children may have the means of learning the words correctly before they are taught to sing them. *See* page xii.

CONTENTS.

		PAGE
Baby	*L. S.*	1
The Lion	*E. L. J.*	2
The Furniture of a House	*L. S.*	4
Tell-tale Jessie	*E. K.*	6
My Garden	*S. C. C.*	9
Plants used for Clothing	*M. O. N.*	13
Poetry: The Rain and the Sun	*C. H.*	15
Lighting a Fire	*L. S.*	17
The Goose	*E. L. J.*	18
Honesty	*W. E. C.*	21
The Workbox	*E. L. J.*	23
Plants used as Food	*E. A. C.*	25
Poetry: We are Seven	*W. Wordsworth*	27
Sweeping a Room	*L. S.*	30
The Newt	*M. R. B.*	31
Industry	*W. E. C.*	34
Milk	*S. C. C.*	36
Our Ferns	*M. R. B.*	39
Poetry: The Poor Man's Garden	*Mary Howitt*	42
Making a Bed	*L. S.*	43
The Cuckoo	*M. R. B.*	46
Be Kind	*E. T. S.*	48
Glass	*Sc.*	51
Kinds of Corn	*id.*	53
Poetry: The Little Bird	*John Pringle*	56
Uses of Water in the House	*S.*	57
The Owl	*E. A. C.*	60
Truthfulness	*E. K.*	62
Salt	*A. C.*	66

PAGE
The Potato . . . . *E. T.* 69
Poetry: The Humming Bird . . . *Mary Howitt* 72
The Eagle . . . . *E. A. C.* 73
Obedience to Parents . . . . . . *E. F. Y.* 76
Coal . . . . *M. A. F.* 78
Poetry: Birds . . . . . . *W. H. Thompson* 81
A Table-cloth . . . . *E. T.* 83
The Swans . . . . *S.* 85
Tidiness . . . . *L. S.* 90
Sponge . . . . *L. C. L.* 92
Poetry: The Butterfly's First Flight . *A. Strickland* 94
A Table-knife and Fork . . . . . . *E. L. J.* 96
Pigeons . . . . *L. C. L.* 98
Soap . . . . *L. C. L.* 101
Geographical Terms . . . . . . *R. McW.* 104
Deer . . . . *L. C. L.* 106
Unselfishness . . . . *M. M. W.* 109
A Candle . . . . *M. A. F.* 115
Poetry: The Sunshine . . . . . *Mary Howitt* 118
The Sun, Moon, and Stars . . . . . *S. C. C.* 119
The Earth . . . . *S. C. C.* 122
The Peacock . . . . *S.* 126
A Cup and Saucer . . . . *Sc.* 128
Poetry: The Crocus's Soliloquy . . *H. F. Gould* 131
The Camel . . . . *S.* 132
Wood . . . . *M. A. F.* 135
Poetry: Sincerity 139
The Elephant . . . . *S.* 140
Poetry: The Daisy . . . . . *J. Montgomery* 143
The Tiger . . . . *E. L. J.* 145
Song: The Little Disaster . . *The Golden Wreath* 147

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

TO THIS VOLUME.

L. S.	Miss Sherar, *Edinburgh Academy.*
E. L. J.	Mrs. Jones, *S. Saviour's Schools, Brixton.*
E. K.	Mrs. Kirk, *Plumstead Park, Kent.*
S. C. C.	Miss Close, *Miss Dunn's School, Truro.*
M. O. N.	Miss Norris, *Assembly House, Walthamstow.*
C. H.	Rev. Charles Hole, *North Cheam House, Surrey.*
W. E. C.	Rev. W. E. Coghlan, M.A., *S. Paul's Ch., Covent Garden.*
E. A. C.	Miss Effie Ann Currie, *Mayfield School, Manchester.*
M. R. B.	Miss M. R. Baker, *Leamington.*
E. T. S.	Rev. Edwd. T. Stevens, B.A., *Oxon.; A.K.C., Lond.*
Sc.	Mrs. Schaffter, *formerly Governess of the Training School, Brighton.*
S.	"Stockwell."
A. C.	Miss A. Currie, *Mayfield Sch., Manchester.*
E. T.	Mrs. Trinder, *S. Mary's Schools, Islington, N.*
E. F. Y.	Miss Yarnold, *Mentmore School, Leighton Buzzard.*
M. A. F.	Mrs. Fuge, *formerly Head Governess of Whitelands Training School.*
L. C. L.	Miss Lee, *Christ Church Schools, Streatham.*
R. McW.	Mr. R. McWilliam, *British School, Crawford St., S.E.*
M. M. W.	Miss Wood, *S. Anne's Schools, Limehouse.*

The initialed Lessons in this volume are Copyright, and all rights in them are reserved by the Proprietors.

The Poor Man's Garden, p. 42, is set to music in 'Crampton's School Songs.'

The Crocus's Soliloquy, p. 131, has been set to music by Mr. Crampton and also by Mr. G. W. Martin.

The Daisy, p. 143, is set to music in the 'Training School Song-Book.'

The Little Disaster, p. 147, is set to music in 'The Golden Wreath.'

NOTE.—The Editors will esteem it a favour if teachers will kindly inform them of any other poems in this book which have been, or may hereafter be, set to music, in order that they may be added to the above list.

THE
USEFUL KNOWLEDGE READING BOOKS.

STANDARD II. (GIRLS' SERIES.)

BABY.

would
breast
scratch
know
fault
clasp-ed
crow-ing
laugh-ing
guess
cheer-ful
com-fort
un-wash-ed
un-hap-py
at-ten-tion
treas-ure

What a dear little thing a baby is! The whole house is full of glee when we hear our baby-brother's voice laughing and crowing. I love to nurse him, but, sometimes his little dimpled hands get in among my hair and give me such a pull! Sometimes, too, I get a scratch on my face from his little sharp nails; but still I love him dearly, for he keeps the house all astir when he is awake, and sometimes when he takes a long sleep we begin to feel quite dull, and miss his lively crowing. How soon baby knows his mother's voice! You would think he almost knows her step when she comes into the room. See how he stretches out his little fat hands to be taken by her, and seems to feel quite secure when clasped to her breast.

We must be very careful of baby; poor little fellow! he cannot tell what he feels the want of, and we have to guess, as we best can. It would never do to take him out on a wet day, for fear of cold—he is such a tender little thing. Then, too, we must be careful what he gets to eat; and we must see that he is kept as clean and happy as possible. It is such a pity to see a dear little baby with an unwashed face and a dirty frock. Such babies are mostly cross ones, because they are unhappy and sickly, but then that is the fault of the mother, who does not pay attention to the little treasure given her to take care of. So, if ever you have to nurse a baby, see that you try to keep it clean, and make it as cheerful and happy as you can. L. S.

THE LION.

des-erts
height
shag-gy
twi-light
bul-locks
Af-ri-ca
In-di-a
prowl-ing
leis-ure
yel-low
ap-pear-ance
A-ra-bi-a
com-pel-led
dis-turb-ed
seiz-es

The lion is called the king of beasts, not because he is of such great size, but because there is in his appearance a look of greater strength and majesty than in that of any other animal.

His home is in Africa and the hottest parts of Asia, such as Persia, India, and the deserts of Arabia. The largest lions are about eight or nine feet long, and four or five feet in height. The tail is about four feet long, having a tuft of hair at the end. The form of the lion tells of great strength; he has a broad chest and shoulders, thick neck, strong bones, sharp claws, and very strong teeth.

The neck of the male is covered with long, flowing, shaggy hair, called its mane. The lion varies in colour. In India he is of a pale yellow, while in Africa he is of a much darker shade.

He lives in the forests, and belongs to that class of animals which feeds on flesh, for which his Maker has provided him with a foot and claws like the cat, well adapted for seizing his prey. His tongue is covered with a number of small hooks, which help him to tear in pieces the animal which he has caught.

When not pressed by hunger, the lion feeds at dawn and twilight, and is not easily disturbed. During the night he will be prowling round the herds of cattle or near the flocks of sheep, watching for a chance of carrying off some animal; if he succeeds, he carries off his prey to some quiet place and devours it at leisure; but if compelled by hunger he boldly attacks any one that comes in his way, and has been known to drag a bullock or horse from the shafts, and even men who have been sitting round the fires which are lighted to keep him off.

His mode of catching his prey is to lie close to the ground until the animal he is about to seize is within a short distance, when he springs forward with a great bound and seizes his victim with his claws.

It is when he is angry that the strength of the lion is so terrible, and that he is so much to be feared; his eyes sparkle, his mane stands up, and he lashes himself from side to side with his tail, and his roar is so loud and long that it can be heard at a great distance. All animals avoid him; it is only the huntsman with his guns and dogs that dares to attack him.

When wounded, the dogs rush upon him, and a dreadful battle takes place; the lion bravely defends himself, often killing the dogs till more shots put an end to his life.

E. L. J.

THE FURNITURE OF A HOUSE.

con-tains
fur-nish
mon-ey
mat-tress
com-pare
bed-stead
house-wife
help-ing
cheap-est
pat-terns
re-quire
art-i-cles
pre-par ed
per-haps
join-ing

Have you a doll's house? If so, you can name many articles of furniture that it contains, and may perhaps be of use to your mother in helping her to get the furniture for the new house.

Before you set out to buy it, think over what articles you require, and how much money you have to buy them with. Then, my dear Mary, you must see that you get the most useful things first.

If you have not very much money to lay out, I would advise you not to run to the first furniture shop you see, but take a little time; price a thing in one shop and then in another; compare them, and see which is the best and cheapest; at the same time, if you have to furnish a small room, see that you do not get a carpet with a large pattern; it makes the room look smaller, and cuts to waste, in joining the pattern at the seams. You must attend to the same thing with respect to curtains, and see that one piece of furniture suits another. Iron bedsteads are much better than wooden ones, because they are more easily kept clean, and last longer. Mattresses are better for health than feather beds.

A girl should early learn all that is required in the house, and be taught how to keep it clean and tidy, for then she will make a clever house-wife when she is older. A woman can try to save a little every week, and at the end of a month or six weeks be able with these savings to buy something for her house. By doing this she may in a short time have a very well-furnished home.

Be careful that what you have, however little, be kept clean and in good order, and that you buy things that are useful and strong, rather than those that are showy but badly made. L. S.

TELL-TALE JESSIE.

or-phan
cous-in
learn-ing
naught-y
dis-grace
eas-i-er
cheer-ful
niece
serv-ice
plan-ned
con-science
quar-rel-ling
ex-am-ine
aft-er-noon
hol-i-day

Jessie Roberts was an orphan. Her mother's sister, though she had a large family, took pity on her, and she and her husband agreed that their niece should live with them till she was old enough to work for herself.

Jessie therefore came to live with her aunt. Her cousins went to a day-school, and Jessie was now sent with them. When the teacher came to examine her, she was found to read and write much better than her cousin Fanny, though she was two years younger. In fact, Jessie was clever, and so quick at learning, that soon she was at the head of her class.

Mrs. Wallis, Jessie's aunt, had told Fanny she must be very kind to her cousin, because she had no parents to love her as she had.

'Mother,' said Fanny Wallis, one day, when Jessie had been with them some weeks, 'Jessie is not liked at school. At playtime she is left to herself, for the other girls will not let her join them.'

'That is very naughty of them, Fanny. Cannot you tell them how unkind they are?'

'I do not say it to make mischief for my cousin, mother, but Jessie is much to blame. Scarcely a day passes but she gets some one in the school into disgrace. She always has some tale to tell, and the girls call her "Tell-tale Jessie!"'

Mrs. Wallis soon had a chance of finding this was true of her little niece. Fanny was sent to service, and Jessie had to take her place in minding the little ones out of school-hours. Then Mrs. Wallis found she had no peace. The children were always quarrelling or crying, and Jessie would call out, 'Aunt, speak to Bobby; he is teazing baby;' or it would be, 'Mary, Harry has your doll; Bobby, Tom will tear your kite,' until there seemed to be endless strife in the house.

At school things were worse than ever. There was no Fanny, now, to speak for Jessie to her school-fellows, till one day there was to be a half-holiday for the school, and Jessie's class had planned to go nutting.

'Girls,' said Ellen Carey, who was the one in the class next to Jessie, 'I propose we punish "Tell-tale Jessie," by not letting her come with us, nutting.'

'So we will,' cried several voices; 'the Tell-tale would only spoil our fun, if she came.'

Poor Jessie! This was a greater punishment to her than her companions thought. Before she came amongst them, she had scarcely seen a green field or tree. She had lived in a smoky, dirty town. That very morning their text at school had been, 'Where there is no tale-bearer, the strife ceaseth.' All that afternoon as Jessie sat at home, nursing the baby, this text kept running in her mind. She tried to think how unkind her school-fellows were, but still the text troubled her. Conscience said, 'You are a tale-bearer You are ever making strife at school.' Then she thought how happy and cheerful her little cousins were when Fanny was with them, and again Conscience said, 'You are too fond of telling tales of them to their mother, and getting them punished.'

That afternoon was not lost to Jessie. Before her aunt and cousins came home, she had looked well at her fault and had made up her mind to be a tale-bearer no longer.

A week or two after, the girls in the school were at play, when Ellen Carey said,

'How nicely everything has gone on lately! Now I come to think of it, Jessie Roberts has told no tales of us since we went nutting without her.'

'No, she has not,' cried several voices.

'Then, since she has left off tale-telling, suppose we let her play with us?'

'Very well, Nellie; we will ask her at once to join us.'

Mrs. Wallis also noticed the change. One day she said, 'Jessie, you are quite a handy little girl to me. The children, too, seem to get on nicely with you now. You seldom complain of them.'

You see Jessie had not tried in vain. It had been a hard task to her at first, and sometimes she could not quite forget her old habit, but the more she tried the easier it became to her, so that her school-fellows were now quite eager to have Jessie with them whenever they went into the country.

'Jessie is so good-natured,' they would say; 'she is always willing to help us with our lessons, and is so merry in play-time.'

No one ever thought again of calling her 'Tell-tale Jessie,' for it was no longer true of her, and Jessie never forgot that since there was no tale-bearer, strife had ceased.

E. K.

MY GARDEN.

stretch-ing
scent-ing
blos-soms
use-ful
come-ly
scat-ter
fret-ful
watch-ed
for-get
earl-y
un-hap-py
en-joy-ment
flow-ers
soft-en-ed
rip-en-ing

I am very busy, but every now and then something taps at the window, and makes me look up. Shall I tell you what it is? Outside the window are some rose-trees, and when the wind kisses them they bend to and fro, and so tap at my window. When I look up I see great hills stretching miles and miles away; green fields with young lambs playing in them; trees where the happy birds sing all day long; and just outside, so near that a step will take me into it, a real country garden. There are not many flowers in it now, for it is early spring, but the currant shrub and briar are scenting the air, and in the nooks and corners sweet violets and pale primroses are blooming. Everywhere green shoots are coming up, the pear trees and the plum trees are in blossom, and farther on the potatoes and green peas are springing up. I think we shall have plenty of ripe gooseberries and currants by-and-by, as well as sweet garden flowers.

Don't you love a garden? I do. I had many pretty toys, knew many pretty games, and had lots of story-books when I was young, but I did not love any of them half so well as my garden. I am sure that if boys and girls want to be healthy and happy, nothing will be more likely to make them so than a garden, and I don't believe that a boy or girl who loves and tends a garden will ever grow up to be an idle, wicked man or woman. Why? Because it seems to me no child can watch the little seeds grow up, and spend his time in caring for the tender buds, without learning to love the great God who gives them life, and use, and beauty.

Shall I tell you what the flowers and plants say to us? They say, 'God cares for *us*, He cares more for *you*. God loves *us*; He loves *you* more. Try to grow strong, and sweet and useful like us. Love the great God, and try to please Him. Shut your eyes and ears to all bad things. Open them wide to all good things. Then you will be God's fair flowers, and scatter sweetness all around you.'

Yes; I love a garden, because the flowers and fruits talk to me of God. But that is not the only reason. I know children who are fretful and unhappy because they have no work to do. Now a garden always gives something to think about, and something to do. Before a seed is sown, the ground must be cleaned, and dug, and softened. Then you have to think and find out what seeds to sow, how to sow them, and when to do it best. When the seeds are in, you must not be idle. Weeds grow faster than the flowers. They must be watched and pulled up as soon as they appear. Then the young plants want water, and the ground wants manure. They must be trained to grow up straight and comely plants. Each season, too, has its own plants and flowers, so that while one lot is ripening, you must be sowing another.

Then, too, you must try not only to get your plants and flowers to grow, but to have them grow as fine and fair as possible. To do this you must think and read, and listen to those wiser than yourself. So you see a garden finds constant work. And there is nothing in the world so likely to make you happy as a good conscience and plenty of work. Idle people are never happy.

I love a garden, also, because it helps people to be gentle and good-tempered. The flowers and buds must be touched *so* carefully. How easily they may be crushed or spoilt! And treating them gently helps to make you gentle to everything else.

My father used to tell me, when I was cross or fretful, to walk for five minutes in the garden, that I might learn from the quiet, happy flowers to be quiet and happy too.

Besides, a garden well kept makes home so lovely. Outside! Yes; and inside *too*, nearly always. A home is lovely when everybody in it tries always to be clean and neat himself, and to keep it so; when each one loves God and all the others, and tries to be useful and kind to them. And what boys and girls are so likely to do these things as those who love their gardens, and try hard to do what they teach them!

If you wish, boys and girls, to grow up strong, useful, and happy; if you wish to have pure and lasting enjoyments, keep away from idle boys and girls; rise early; love your gardens, and when you are working in them do not forget to ask God to help you to grow up pure and sweet and useful, like your plants and flowers. S. C. C.

PLANTS USED FOR CLOTHING.

pet-als
cen-tre
pur-plish
wal-nut
spe-cies
mus-lins
mum-mies
wrap-ped
beau-ti-ful
cam-bric
col-our
sep-a-rate
can-vas
oak-um
pre-par-ed

Cotton, flax, and hemp are plants which are used for making cloth. Perhaps the cotton is the most useful and the best known of them all. There are several kinds of cotton plants. Some are large trees, fifteen or twenty feet high; others are shrubs, four or five feet high; while some are only annual herbs. The blossom is large, with yellow or white petals, and a purplish centre. After the blossom is gone, a pod, about the size of a walnut, fills its place, and when this pod is quite ripe it bursts, and you can see inside a quantity of soft down of a pale yellow colour; and in the middle of this down are the seeds. Some pods contain as many as twenty seeds, while others, perhaps, have only half that number. Cotton is grown chiefly in India, China, America, and the West Indies, and is supposed to have been brought in the first instance from Persia. The pods are collected by the hand during October and November; then the work-people separate the downy part of the pod from the seeds, and pack it in bales for the market. It is afterwards cleansed, carded, spun, and woven. Calico, prints, muslins, stockings, and gloves are made from cotton.

Flax is another plant from which clothing is made. But in this case it is the stalk, not the seed-pod, which is so useful. Its history is very ancient, for as early as the time of Joseph flax was used for making linen. Solomon also traded in flaxen yarn. The Egyptian mummies are wrapped in linen made from flax, and these are thousands of years old. It seems, also, that it was made formerly much in the same way that it is at the present time. It is a beautiful plant, growing best on rich ground, and having thin stalks, small leaves, and blue flowers. It is sown in April, and when ripe is cut down and steeped in water, until the flax separates from the woody part of the stalk in the shape of fine threads. The best laces, cambrics, and all kinds of linen cloths are made from flax. The seed of the plant is called linseed, and is also very useful, as it contains a large quantity of oil. The finest thread which has been spun in England measures 12,000 yards spun for every pound of flax.

Hemp is a wild plant in many parts of

India, but is grown in different parts of Europe, and in our own country in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. It is an annual plant, growing best on rich soils. It is sown in April, and attains a height of six feet. It is prepared much in the same way as flax, but its fibre produces a cloth much stronger and coarser than linen. It is spun into threads, and then woven into canvas for sails, sacks, &c., or twisted into ropes, twine, and cordage of various kinds. Old rope is also pulled into pieces for this purpose.

The refuse of hemp is called tow. Old tarred rope pulled into fibre is called oakum. Tow is used for stuffing seats of chairs and couches; oakum for filling up cracks in the sides of ships.

M. O. N.

THE RAIN AND THE SUN.

gent-ly
thirst-y
grate-ful
pleas-ant
for-lorn
na-ture
glan-ces
bright
breeze
dearth
fo-li-age
nour-ish-ed
fruit-ful-ness
re-fresh-ing
beau-te-ous

How gently falls the rain,
  Upon the thirsty earth,
To bring to life the seed of grain,
  And save the land from dearth!

It clothes our fields with green,
With foliage, too, the trees;
Whose grateful leaves, with pleasant sheen,
Wave softly in the breeze.

The sky drops fatness down,
When rain doth gently fall;
Flow'rs and trees, grass and corn,
By it are nourished all.

The earth would be forlorn,
But for refreshing showers;
Its fruitfulness would all be gone,
Its bright and lovely flowers.

The Sun, too, gives us light and heat
To make the plants uprise;
The grass on which we press our feet,
The deep blue of the skies.

The rich and varied bloom which plays
Round Nature's beauteous face,
Are glances of the Sun's bright rays,
Her charm, her joy, her grace.

The Giver of all good hath thus
Such kindness to us done,
By giving, in His love to us,
The genial Rain and Sun. C. H.

LIGHTING A FIRE.

cin-ders
break-fast
shav-ings
lat-tice
un-til
known
blaz-ing
piec-es
fash-ion
put-ting
smok-y
wal-nut
found-a-tion
quant-i-ty
waste-ful

Have any of you ever tried to light a fire? I have known many girls who could not make a nice one. It would be dull-looking and smoky, and take a long time to burn up. What looks more cheerful in winter, when we come down to breakfast, than a nice blazing fire! Now, in order to make a good bright fire, the first thing you must do is to clear out the grate, and then put in a few clean cinders at the bottom, about the size of a large walnut, or a foundation. Next, place upon them a little paper, or shavings, and over them, at a little distance apart, some small pieces of wood, not thicker than your finger, quite across the grate, so that they do not press down too much on the paper or shavings. Now lay more wood a little thicker in size across these, lattice fashion, until you have used your proper quantity. Next, place lightly on the top of the wood a few pieces of half-burnt coal, and over these some nice pieces of freshly-broken coal, about as large as an egg, or a little larger, putting a few bigger lumps beside the bars. Take a match, or a lighted piece of paper, and set light to the paper at the bottom, and the whole will burn up nicely. Be sure you never light it with a candle; it is a wasteful and untidy practice. After a short time more fresh coal must be put lightly on the fire. The lumps may now be larger, and a few cinders may be added at the back, or a little small coal. But cinders are apt to make the fire look dirty, so they had better be burnt in the kitchen or under the copper. It is a wasteful plan to throw them away, as so many people do, but they should be carefully sifted in the cinder-sifter.

L. S.

THE GOOSE.

cot-ta-ger
au-tumn
car-ri-ed
nois-i-est
scream-ing
quack-ing
whith-er
sol-diers
bus-tle
Cre-a-tor
mi-grat-ing
si-lent-ly
Sep-tem-ber
Mi-chael-mas
des-troy-ed

The goose, like the duck, is a swimming bird, but may easily be known from it, as it is larger in size and has a longer neck and bill.

There are the tame goose kept by the farmer and the cottager, and the wild goose which lives on the marshes, fens, and commons of England, and nearly every country of Europe.

The wild goose is of a brownish colour on the back, with waving lines of grey, and an orange-coloured bill. It feeds on grass and grain.

The tame goose is pleased enough when the autumn comes to be turned into the stubble fields after the corn has been carried. It is the noisiest bird on the farm, and is of as much use in raising an alarm as a dog would be. Many years ago the city of Rome in Italy, of which most little girls have heard, was saved from being taken by the Gauls by the screaming of these birds.

The enemy, finding that the Roman guards had fallen asleep, tried to get over the walls at night, but a flock of geese, hearing the noise which they made, set up such a loud quacking that the soldiers awoke and drove them back; since which time the Romans have always held this bird in great esteem.

It is the custom in England to eat goose on Michaelmas Day, the twenty-ninth of September, because many years ago, when our great Queen Elizabeth was dining with one of her nobles, he had a goose on the table, and while partaking of it, word was brought to the queen that her sailors had destroyed a great number of ships and sailors that had been sent to fight with them by the King of Spain; so the queen said, 'Let a goose be placed on the table on every twenty-ninth of September in remembrance of this event.'

Wild geese do not always keep in the same country, but when it is too cold for them in one they go to another that is warmer; this is called migrating. You will wonder how they do this. Well, all we know about it is that they have given them by an All-wise Creator a wonderful power of flight, and sense to know when to make use of it. While preparing for their journey they make a great noise and bustle; when met together they silently form themselves into two slanting lines; one is chosen as leader, and so they fly through the air; but as it is harder work for the first bird to cut through the air than the rest, when it is tired it falls back behind the last bird, and the next bird takes its place; and so on each in turn, till they reach the place whither they are bound.

In some countries the goose is as much a domestic animal as the cat and dog is with us, and a great affection springs up between it and its owner.

Large numbers of geese are kept in the fens of Lincolnshire, where they are reared for the sake of their feathers. You will be surprised to hear that they are often plucked from them while alive—the larger ones for the sake of their quills, which are used as pens, and the smaller feathers, five times a year, for stuffing beds, pillows, and cushions. This is a very cruel practice, which many owners of geese of course will not allow, and which no right-minded person can even think of without pain.

E. L. J.

HONESTY.

some-bod-y
some-thing
smooth-ing
wrong
be-cause
caught
spark-led
whist-ling
bas-ket
faults
un-hap-py
gen-tle-ness
be-long-ed
fish-ing
wick-ed

There are many ways in which all of us may be honest. We must not fancy that we are quite sure to be honest so long as we do not take anything, or wish to take anything which belongs to somebody else. We may never have taken even a pin that was not our own, and yet, for all that, we may not have been quite honest; we may not have been honest in something that we have thought or said.

We are not honest when we try to make ourselves believe that something wrong we have done is not quite so bad after all.

Many of us are very fond of smoothing over our faults, and saying pleasant things to ourselves when we ought rather to be full of shame and sorrow.

A young friend of mine, named Willie, one day went fishing in a small lake. He had been told not to fish there, because all the fish in the lake, and the lake, too, belonged to a gentleman who wished to keep the fishing for his friends. It was a very pretty place;

there were fresh green trees upon the bank, and the water sparkled and danced as the sun shone upon it. Willie sat down in the shade and fished for an hour. He caught a few perch, and then walked home through the fields, but did not feel very happy at first, for something told him he had done wrong. Then he began to talk to himself. 'What harm can there be, after all,' said he, 'in taking a few small fish out of the water? I was only there a very short time, and besides, the fish can't all belong to one gentleman any more than the flies and the birds which fly about everywhere. If nobody knows anything about it, what harm can I have done? I shall tell nobody, and all will be jolly.' So on he went whistling. But he forgot he had the fish in his basket, so that when he got home his mother saw the fish, and asked him where he had been. He told her all about it, and made the same excuse to her that he had made to himself.

'Willie, my boy!' said his mother, 'you know you are not speaking the truth when you talk in that manner. You have done wrong in going to the lake when you have been told to keep away, and, besides that, you have done two things that are not honest: you have taken fish that do not belong to you, and you have tried to make yourself believe that you have done nothing wrong.'

Thus his kind mother showed Willie how wrong he had been. If he had not had her to tell him of his faults, he might have gone from bad to worse.

We must watch and be very careful, for it is very easy to make ourselves think we are quite honest when we are not. After the first slip it is not hard to go on slipping until we forget all about honesty, and become very wicked and very unhappy. W. E. C.

THE WORKBOX.

grand-moth-er
beau-ti-ful
ex-claim-ed
nee-dle-work
dil-i-gence
dif-fer-ent
vein-ed
for-eign
san-dal
isl-ands
through-out
ve-neer-ing
scis-sors
ex-am-ine
ma-hog-an-y

'A workbox! a workbox!' exclaimed Ellen Mortimer. 'I am nine years old to-day, and grandmother has sent me this beautiful workbox, and inside it was this slip of paper with these words written upon it, "A present for my little grand-daughter as a reward for improvement and diligence in needlework."'

Just at this moment Ellen's mother came into the room and said, 'I am very pleased, my dear child, that you have such a handsome and useful present, and to encourage you still more, I will furnish your box with all that is wanted for use; but before doing so let us sit down and examine it.

'We see that it is of an oblong shape, with a lid opening upon two hinges. It has a tray with divisions for holding the different reels of cotton, silk, and other small articles to be placed in it.

'This tray can be lifted out, and between it and the bottom of the box will be enough space for putting larger articles.

'It is made from a wood called walnut, and is very light and prettily veined. It grows in this country, but there are several foreign woods used for this purpose, such as mahogany, grown in the West Indies, Honduras, Africa, and Australia; rosewood, from the East Indies and Brazil ; satinwood, from Porto Rico, St. Domingo, and the East Indies, and sandalwood from the Pacific Islands. These are called fancy woods, and the beautiful waving lines, eyes, and spots which we see in these woods have required much care and labour by a process called polishing to show them well, and to make the wood so smooth and bright.

'These woods are very expensive, so that articles are seldom made of them throughout, but of an inferior wood, which is then covered with thin plates of the fancy wood, called veneers, and the putting them on is called veneering.

'Now I think,' said Mrs. Mortimer, 'you may open this parcel and arrange its contents in your box. Here are some reels of cotton of various colours, some skeins of silk, papers of needles, packets of pins, thread, black and white tapes, hooks, bobbins and cord, a pair of scissors, a bodkin, and a silver thimble, all of which you will find most useful.'

'Thank you very much, dear mother,' said Ellen. 'I have often heard you say that an orderly person may be known by her work-box. I hope I shall not only remember what you have told me, but try to make my box a pattern of neatness and order.' E. L. J.

PLANTS USED AS FOOD.

pars-nep
scar-let
kid-ney
tur-nips
car-rots
mus-tard
let-tuce
rough-er
full-grown
brown-ish
dif-fer-ent
fla-vour-ing
po-ta-to
po-ta-toes
rad-ish-es

The plants which we use most commonly for food in this country are several kinds of cabbage, onions, carrots, turnips, parsneps and potatoes, peas and beans.

The commonest sorts of cabbage are broccoli, white-hearted cabbage, red or pickling cabbage, and Brussels sprouts, which have long stems, with sprouts or shoots growing out of them. The peas which we use are either green or dried. The former are used in summer, and the latter in winter, for flavouring and thickening soup.

We use two kinds of beans, broad beans and scarlet or kidney beans. Kidney beans are not so large as broad beans, and the outside of their pod is rougher. Autumn is the season for kidney beans, but broad beans are gathered at the same time as green peas.

The commonest kind of so-called root plants which we use for food are potatoes, turnips, carrots, parsneps, radishes, and horse-radishes. There are several different sorts of potatoes, flukes or kidneys, which are long and rather flat; red roughs, which are round, and have a rough skin, and those which are white, and have smooth skins.

Turnips are round, and white or yellow, and are in season in autumn and winter. Carrots are different in shape from turnips; they are long, taper roots of a bright red colour.

Parsneps resemble carrots in shape, but their colour is a brownish white.

Some radishes are round, like turnips, and are called turnip-radishes; others are similar in shape to carrots. They are both white and red, and are eaten raw.

The horse-radish resembles the carrot in shape, but its colour is white. Onions are eaten in two forms. They may be eaten in spring and summer as a salad when they are very young, or when they are full grown, either boiled or baked, or as flavouring to various dishes.

The commonest kinds of salad we use are radishes, lettuce, mustard and cress, watercress, and celery. Watercress is often found growing wild in ponds and streams, but we sow seed in our gardens for lettuce and mustard and cress in the spring. Celery requires more attention than either of these, and is not in season until winter.

The most useful herbs which we are able to rear in our own gardens are parsley, mint, thyme, and sage. Any of these may be dried for winter use.

Any eatable kind of plant, except those which are dried, such as herbs, is best when fresh, although we cannot always obtain them in that state. Potatoes and onions are least affected by being kept.

The most usual method of cooking cabbage, peas and beans, potatoes, turnips, carrots, and parsneps is by boiling. Cabbages and potatoes should have a little salt in the water. Soda is sometimes preferred for cabbage. Care should be taken to prevent potatoes from boiling too fast, as this will cause the outside to break when the inside is nearly raw. Every kind of cooking requires care. E. A. C.

WE ARE SEVEN.

stock-ings
cot-tage
di-ed
sev-en
broth-ers
ker-chief
church-yard
play-ed
heav-en
maid-en
clus-ter-ed
to-geth-er
re-liev-ed
an-swer-ed
won-der-ing

I met a little cottage girl;
  She was eight years old, she said;
Her hair was thick with many a curl
  That cluster'd round her head.

'Sisters and brothers, little maid,
  How many may you be?'
'How many? Seven in all,' she said,
  And, wondering, looked at me.

'And where are they? I pray you tell.'
  She answered, 'Seven are we,
And two of us at Conway dwell,
  And two are gone to sea;

'Two of us in the churchyard lie,
  My sister and my brother,
And in the churchyard cottage, I
  Dwell near them with my mother.'

'You say that two at Conway dwell,
  And two are gone to sea,
Yet ye are seven! I pray you tell,
  Sweet maid, how this may be.'

Then did the little maid reply,
  'Seven boys and girls are we;
Two of us in the churchyard lie,
  Beneath the churchyard tree.'

'You run about, my little maid,
  Your limbs they are alive;
If two are in the churchyard laid,
  Then ye are only five.'

'Their graves are green, they may be seen,'
  The little maid replied;
'Twelve steps or more from mother's door,
  And they are side by side.

'My stockings there I often knit,
  My kerchief there I hem;
And there upon the ground I sit—
  I sit and sing to them.

'The first that died was little Jane;
  In bed she moaning lay,
Till God relieved her of her pain,
  And then she went away.

'So in the churchyard she was laid;
  And when the grass was dry,
Together round her grave we played,
  My brother John and I.

'And when the ground was white with snow,
  And we could run and slide,
My brother John was forced to go,
  And he lies by her side.'

'How many are you, then,' said I,
  'If those two are in heaven?'
The little maiden did reply,
  'O Master! We are seven.'

'But they are dead; those two are dead!
  Their spirits are in heaven.'
'Twas throwing words away, for still
  The little maid would have her will,
And said, 'Nay, we are seven!'

W. Wordsworth.

SWEEPING A ROOM.

slight-ly
shak-en
feath-ers
ink-stand
so-fa
foot-stool
hearth
gath-er
art-i-cles
fur-ni-ture
dif-fi-cult
ev-er-y
or-na-ments
care-ful-ly
re-mov-ed

It is well for every little girl to know how to sweep a room clean.

First gather all the ornaments and books together upon a table, and tie a dusting sheet over them. Then cover the sofa, and any other large pieces of furniture with sheets. Now roll up the curtains, and pin them out of the way as high as you can reach. Next, you must place the chairs one upon another, in the middle of the room, and the small tables, too, if there are any. Now roll up the rug, and take it out of the room, together with the footstools, to be shaken and brushed in the yard. Strew tea-leaves, moist but not wet, upon the sides of the room, and sweep carefully, but not with a very heavy hand. Be careful to remove every bit of dust from the corners, and to sweep the dirt and leaves towards one spot, either the door or the hearth.

When the room is swept all round, replace the furniture you at first removed, and clear the middle of the room. Then strew fresh leaves in this part, and sweep very clean.

If there are any heavy pieces of furniture that cannot be removed, stoop or kneel down and sweep under them with a short brush. When every part is well swept, remove the dirt and leaves in a dustpan. Open the windows, and the flying dust will settle whilst you throw away the dirt and leaves. Shake the rug, brush the footstools, and bring them in together with a clean, soft duster and a dusting brush. The latter is made of hair, or soft feathers, and is used to dust the picture frames, ornaments, or carved furniture, where it would be difficult to use a duster. Be sure to make everything quite clean, and free from dust. If you have tables to dust with articles upon them, such as a desk, workbox, tea-caddy, inkstand, books, or the like, do not wipe round them, for that will leave a line of dust round each—but remove them, rub the table, and then dust all the articles as you replace them one by one upon it. L. S.

THE NEWT.

hap-pi-ly
writ-ing
cov-er-ed
beau-ti-ful
col-our-ed
pret-ti-ly
re-mind-ed
al-though
pin-a-fore
puz-zled
bis-cuit
friend
piece
beau-ti-ful
un-der-stand

One morning, when I went to school, I found one of the girls had brought me a present. It was something alive. No, it was not a bird, nor a dog, nor a kitten. It was swimming about very happily in a bottle of water. You feel sure you are right now, that it was a fish. Well, I will tell you what it was like, and then you will see. It had a flat head, something like a frog's; and two bright golden brown eyes—they are looking at me now while I am writing to you. Its body was rather long, and it had a long flat tail. I dare say its whole length was about three inches. It was covered with beautiful skin, gold, brown, and grey coloured, prettily marked with stripes and spots. The under part of its body and tail was striped with crimson. It had four short legs. On each of its fore feet it had four toes, and five on each of its hind feet. They reminded me very much of a tiny baby's hands.

Now do you think my present was a fish? Oh no, you cannot think what it was. It was a little creature called a newt. I had never seen one before, although I had often heard about it. I wanted to know where it was found, and the girl who brought it told me she took it from a pond in her father's garden. She thought I should like it, so she was so kind as to bring it to me.

We took it out of the glass one day to have a better look at it, and we were quite amused to see how quickly it ran about; we could not make it stay quietly in her hands, so one of the girls held it in her pinafore while we talked about it.

At first we were puzzled to know what to give it to eat; for as newts live upon insects which they find in stagnant water, and we had no ponds or ditches near our school, we could not give it the proper kind of water. I put some pieces of biscuit into the bottle, but it did not appear to care about them. Then I tried milk, but I don't think it liked that any better. I now began to fear that I should be obliged to send our little friend back to the pond, as I could not bear to have it starved, and it really began to look very thin and poorly. Just then some one brought me a piece of wall moss; this was put into the glass, and now I think our newt will do very well. Sometimes it creeps under the moss and lies quite still; then all at once it swims to the top of the water and opens its mouth very quickly, to catch an insect, I suppose.

Sometimes it seems to sleep on the top of the water, for its legs hang down, and it does not notice anything. I shall keep it a little longer, to see if it is happy with us; if not, I must send it back to its old home; and I have told you about it because I want you, when you walk out, to notice the beautiful things that God has made. Perhaps some day you will find a newt, and then you will understand better what I have told you. M. R. B.

INDUSTRY.

e-nough	hous-es	hab-its
learn-ing	be-sides	no-thing
prize	peo-ple	prop-er
play-ground	naugh-ty	hap-py
earn-ed	some-thing	school

No one can be happy who has nothing to do. From the time we are able to think and speak, we have a work which must be done. When we are very young, this work may be very little; but it is enough for us, and we ought to do it the very best way we can, and the best way to do it is with all our heart. When we are at school we must give all our thoughts to the work which our teachers tell us to do. See how proud and happy we feel as we get on day by day with our learning, and win a prize when the proper day comes.

If we do not make the best of our time in school we only half enjoy the game in the playground, when school is over. An idle girl, one who cares little about her work, and takes no pride in doing it well, and loses half her time, must feel that she has not earned the fun and the play that come after. She is sure not to feel quite happy, though she may try hard to look and feel so. When we have left the school for the day and go home, we need not sit down and fold our hands, or stand idly about the streets or lanes. There are many things for us to do to help our parents in the house and in the garden, or to prepare our lessons for the next day. Our brothers and sisters, too, if we have any, may need our help, and every one has some friends and neighbours to whom he may be of use.

If those who lived before us had been idle people, how much worse off we should be than we are! We should not know that we can make nice warm clothes from the wool of the sheep and the hair of goats, or that a little worm can help us to make silk. We should not know that we can make bricks from clay and build strong houses to keep from us the wind and the rain; and there are many other things besides that we should never have heard of if a great many people before us had not been earnest workers, taking a pride in learning something new every day, and taking good care to waste none of the minutes as they fly so quickly by.

And besides all this, working well and with all our heart keeps us from thinking of those things we ought not to think of. Naughty thoughts will not come into our heads so often if we always have something good and useful to do, and keep our minds fixed on it. If we try hard and stick to it, we shall soon get into the way of never being idle.

Childhood is the very best time to learn good and useful habits, which will help us very much when we grow older and have to work for our own living, and are sure to make us happy in the end.

W. E. C.

MILK.

sur-pris-ed
de-li-cious
pro-vīd-ed
shal-low
pleas-ant
hurt-ful
cus-tard
Cre-a-tor
moth-er-less
crea-tures
strength-en-ing
dis-a-gree
ar-row-root
pos-si-ble
squeez-ed

Some time ago I saw a wee baby. It was so frail and weak, and its face and fingers were so thin and small, that I thought its spirit would soon pass away from earth. A few months afterwards I saw a rosy-cheeked, plump, bright-eyed child. She was so heavy that I could not nurse her long without feeling very tired. They told me this was the same baby I saw months before. I was much surprised at the change, and asked what they had given her that had done her so much good. They bade me come and see for myself. So I followed them into a green field, where a soft-eyed gentle cow was standing quietly, while a rosy milkmaid drew from it rich streams of delicious warm milk. 'This,' said one, giving me a draught from the pail, 'has saved our motherless darling. Our doctor feared we should not save her, but we were told to feed her on milk, always drawn from one cow; we did it, and you see how well she is. There is not better food than milk for children and young animals.' I knew this was quite true. Milk is the best food for all young things. It is the food God provides for them when they come into the world. Older children and grown-up people can take meat, bread, and other things, but young creatures have neither strength nor sharp teeth to chew these things. Yet they, quite as much as older ones, need food that will make their bones and flesh grow large and strong.

God knows this, and therefore has provided milk, a soft, pleasant food, that does not need chewing or care on the part of the young things who suck it in, without knowing why. Milk is the only food that contains all the substances the blood requires to make the body grow, and it is on this account sometimes called the perfect food.

Young animals should be fed on this food until their teeth are grown strong enough to chew harder things. Milk consists chiefly of fat, sugar, and water. These can be parted from each other and made into nice things which people who are too old to live on milk only use a great deal, and are very fond of.

The farmer's wife puts the milk into shallow pans and lets it stand. Very soon something thick rises to the top. We call it cream. This is taken away and put into a kind of barrel called a churn, where the sugar, water, and curd are pressed out of it. It is then mixed with a little salt, and washed in cold water. It is now called butter. Sometimes, instead of doing this, the farmer's wife or the dairy-maid puts a sour liquid called rennet into the milk. Directly this is done the milk curdles or divides into two parts. One part is solid. This is called curd, and is pressed again and again, until all the liquid is squeezed out of it. It is then coloured and dried, when it is called cheese. The thin part that remains is called whey, and is very pleasant to drink, because it contains the sugar of milk. It is very wholesome, and is often given to sick persons.

Curds and whey are very refreshing in warm weather.

Asses' milk contains more sugar than cows' milk, and is therefore thought better for children than any other kind. It is, however, too scarce in this country to be much used.

Butter is very good and pleasant, eaten with bread, but it is not so wholesome on hot toast, in tarts, cakes, and other rich things. Cheese contains more strengthening food than meat, but it is apt to disagree with persons who are not strong, so that it is unwise for them to eat it.

Milk is used in very many other ways beside butter and cheese-making.

It gives a soft, sweet taste to our tea and coffee, and, mixed with eggs and corn flour or arrowroot, makes nice custards and puddings for the sick.

Bread and boiled milk, or rice eaten with milk, form pleasant food for children, and, indeed, this sweet food is used in so many ways that it is not possible to name them here.

Try to find them out for yourselves, and you will see that this is one of the best and most commonly-used foods provided for man by his Maker.

S. C. C.

OUR FERNS.

fern-e-ry
anx-ious
Christ-mas
voy-age
part-ridge
plough-ed
trump-ets
treas-ures
al-though
ach-ed
straight-en
beau-ti-ful
dis-ap-point
dis-cov-er
swal-low-ed

Children sometimes say to me, 'Do tell us something about where you have been;' so I thought, perhaps, you, too, would like to know about a very pleasant walk I had not very long ago.

For many weeks we had been very busy making a fernery in one part of our garden. We had heaped up some earth, found some large stones to put at the edges, and had begged some large pieces of iron cinder we saw lying near a furnace to mix with the stones. Our garden was now quite ready for the ferns, and we used to take long rambles into the country to find them.

Annie wants to know what a fern is. It is a very pretty plant which grows sometimes on walls, sometimes on stumps of trees, sometimes on banks, in ditches, and other places. There are many different kinds, but none of them bear flowers like other plants, but have rows of seeds on the backs of the leaves. These seeds are so tiny that you may have hundreds of them upon your clothes without knowing it if you go near the plants at seeding time. We had found several kinds of ferns. I will not tell you their names now, because they are too difficult for you to remember, but we had never seen one called the Hart's Tongue, and were very anxious to get it.

The leaves of the Hart's Tongue are long, something like those of the dock, but the shape and colour are more beautiful. We had heard that the Hart's Tongue grew not far from our home, and so were much disappointed at not finding it. One day we had a message from an uncle telling us that he knew where some fine ones were growing, and that if we did not mind a long walk and a dirty one he would be happy to take us. Of course we did not mind, and early one bright morning, soon after Christmas, we started upon what we called our voyage of discovery. We passed plenty of our old fern friends, but did not stop to gather them, and saw numbers of red-legged partridges running along the newly ploughed fields. Once we could not help lingering to pick some beautiful moss, the upper sprays of which were like little trumpets. Then on we went through a dirty lane, which nearly swallowed up our boots; but never mind—there at the end of the lane were the ferns we had so longed to get. A tiny brook ran at the bottom of the lane, and there, deep down the bank, with the pure water washing their roots, grew the Hart's Tongues.

How we longed to dash down the banks! but we were obliged to wait patiently and watch while stronger hands than ours rooted them from their old home.

Our little flower-basket was soon filled, for some of the leaves were more than half a yard long, but we found a way to carry home our treasures. What did we care, although our arms ached so much that we could hardly straighten them for hours after! We had found what we wanted, and with very great pleasure we planted them among our other ferns. And now, as we walk in our garden and watch our plants, they seem to speak to us of so many pleasant things. They remind us of our 'Winter Walk' and of the friends who were with us then. Their beautiful shapes make us feel glad and full of thankfulness to the good God who has given us so many beautiful things on purpose to make us happy. But now, I think, I shall leave you to find out for yourselves some other things that the ferns say to us.

M. R. B.

THE POOR MAN'S GARDEN.

sat-is-fy
pleas-ant
sick-ly
cheer-y
un-til
wear-y
Sab-bath
e-ven-ings
walk-eth
eith-er
con-tent-ment
wall-flow-ers
con-vol-vu-lus
grand-moth-er
bought

I love the poor man's garden,
It gives great joy to me,
That pleasant little piece of ground
Before his door to see.

All day upon some weary task
He toileth with good will,
And back he comes at set of sun,
His garden plot to till.

He knows where grow his wall-flowers,
And when they will be out,
His moss-rose and convolvulus,
That twine his pales about.

He knows his red sweet-williams,
And the stocks that cost him dear,
That well-set row of crimson stocks,
For he bought the seed last year.

And here comes the old grandmother,
When her day's work is done;
And here they bring the sickly babe,
To cheer it in the sun.

And here on Sabbath evenings,
Until the stars come out,
With a little one in either hand,
He walketh all about.

For though his garden-plot is small,
It doth him satisfy;
And there's no inch of all his ground
That doth not fill his eye.

Yes! in the poor man's garden grow
Far more than herbs and flow'rs,—
Kind thoughts, contentment, peace of mind,
And joy for weary hours.

Mary Howitt.

MAKING A BED.

count-er-pane
bol-ster
mat-tress
tumb-ler
up-per-most
hand-some
win-dow
break-fast
de-vice
di-rec-tions
cur-tains
blank-ets
toi-let
straight
cen-tre

Every little girl should know how to make her bed nicely and keep in order her own bedroom. So I will try to note down a few plain directions for those who wish to learn how to do so.

First, after washing and dressing, you should open the window to let fresh air into the room. Then place two clean chairs at the foot of the bed. If there are curtains to the bed they may be drawn aside or looped up. Now take off the counterpane and lay it carefully over the chairs. Do the same with the blankets, and then the sheets, slightly shaking them that the air may pass through them. Take care that the top of each is placed over the back of the chairs, so that sheets, blankets, and counterpane may fall in their proper places when the bed is made. The bolster and pillows must now be thoroughly shaken and laid aside. Next, the bed must be well shaken in all directions, and left to air. After breakfast carry up a can or jug of hot water, a cloth or towel, a glass-cloth and a duster, and also a pail with a lid to it. Into this pail remove all the dirty water from the room, and scald each article of the toilet service with the hot water, and wipe it perfectly dry. If you do this carefully, the ware will look bright and clean. Wash the water-bottle and tumbler, and wipe them quite dry with the glass-cloth. Take down the pail and cloths, and when you have emptied the former, scald it, and put it on its side in the open air. Wash your cloths and put them to dry.

Now carry up some cold soft water in a water-can to fill the ewer, and a jug of cold hard water to fill the bottle, then turn the tumbler over the bottle. Next, see that your hands and arms are quite clean, and put on a large apron that will keep your dress from the bed-clothes, and proceed to make the bed. If there is a mattress it will require to be turned every day: and you must be careful to lay it quite smooth and straight upon the bedstead. The bed, if one is used, must be laid upon it, care being taken that the feathers are smooth and soft, but not flattened down upon the mattress. Then put on the under-blanket, and over that the under-sheet, straight and smooth; tucking the sheet well between the bed and the mattress. Next, take the bolster and pillows, if more than one, and lay them straight in their proper places at the head of the bed, the pillows meeting in the centre. Put on the upper-sheet with the wrong side uppermost, leaving enough at the top to turn over well, and at the foot to tuck in nicely. Then place on the blankets, as many as are wanted; and when the last is on, tuck in all together with the upper-sheet firmly quite round the bed. At the head you must arrange them in one or two folds. Afterwards, put on the quilt or counterpane. You will generally see a flower or some other device exactly in the centre of the counterpane; this must be laid exactly in the middle of the bed, and then the counterpane will hang down properly on each side alike. It is not usual to tuck it in, as it would spoil the appearance of the bed, which should look handsome if well made. Draw your hand across the counterpane, along the lower edge of the pillows, so that their form may be seen beneath, and the head of the bed appear higher than the rest, as it should do. Arrange the curtains neatly in folds about half a yard wide, and spread them carefully upon the corners of the bed.

Now dust the ornaments and furniture, and do not forget to dust the legs of the tables. See that the fire-place, too, is in nice order. You have read how to sweep a room in a previous lesson. L. S.

THE CUCKOO.

wheth-er
sur-pris-ed
pres-ent-ly
hatch-ed
con-trive
nuis-ance
out-side
re-place
jerk-ed
or-phan
blu-ish
en-quir-ed
rhyme
pro-vid-ed
trou-ble-some

I think all children, whether they live in the town or in the country, like to hear the cuckoo.

I dare say they would like to see it too, but it generally takes care to keep out of sight. So I thought I would tell you about a pet cuckoo we had once. I dare say you are rather surprised at our having such a pet, but you will understand how that was presently.

Our cuckoo was put by its mother when it was an egg into the nest of a pretty little bird whose name I do not know, for it is not often found in England. This little bird had some eggs of its own, about the size of the cuckoo's, so it sat upon them all till they were hatched. The baby cuckoo soon became a reat nuisance to the other baby birds, for it would manage to get its back under them, and so contrive to push them out of the nest.

Some boys who used to watch this nest found the poor little things lying outside, so they very kindly picked them up and put them back; but in a little while they found them outside again. A second time they replaced them, and then waited to see if they would settle down quietly. But no! they were again jerked out by the troublesome cuckoo. The boys were sorry for the young birds, and yet they were glad to see what they had so often heard and read about. There was no help for it, and very soon the poor little things died.

The cuckoo was now left alone with its kind nurse, who seemed as fond of it as if it were really her own baby. One day she went out to find some insects for it, but she never returned, for a big boy who thought it good fun to kill poor little birds, saw her and shot her dead. What would the cuckoo do now? It was not strong enough to go after its own food; but one of our aunts heard of it, and took pity on the poor orphan. So she had the nest brought to her house and took great care of the bird, feeding it with boiled eggs. It grew very fast, and in a few months was nearly as large as a crow. It had bluish feathers striped with black and white, and we were very fond of going to look at it.

We went away from home at the end of

June, and were absent for several months. On our return we enquired about the cuckoo, and were told that, in spite of every care, it had died.

You have all heard the rhyme about the cuckoo coming in April and flying away in July, and I suppose when July came, this bird felt that it wanted to fly away too, and not being able to do so it pined away and died.

We were sorry it had not been allowed to fly away, but it was thought that, as it had never provided for itself, it would not be able to do so then, and that it would be cruel to let it go.

The reason why the cuckoo leaves us every year is that it may go to a country where it will not suffer from the cold. God teaches it so that it knows when it is time to go.

M. R. B.

BE KIND.

so-cial
bit-ter-ly
mis-chief
light-en
dumb
com-mit-ted
de-light
pleas-ant
kind-ness-es
mer-ci-ful
re-mem-brance
oc-ca-sions
won-der-ful
grat-i-tude
en-joy-ment

Of all the social duties that devolve upon us, there is not one on which greater stress is laid than on that of being kind; and if there is one thing in the world more likely than another to make you happy, it is a kind heart.

When you have done a kind action, the after-thought gives far more pleasure than the remembrance of any mere enjoyment you may have had, and that is one reason why kind-hearted people are so happy. Another reason is, that nearly all the sins which are daily committed, such as lying, stealing, and the like, are done through selfishness; for it is seldom that persons sin for the purpose of doing a kindness to others. These sins often bring punishment upon those who commit them, even years after they have been bitterly repented of. So that if you are kind to others, you not only avoid the evil effects of bad conduct of this kind, but also the regrets with which you would look back upon a misspent life.

Boys and girls! if you wish to be happy in this world—and who does not?—BE KIND.

If you wish to be happy hereafter—and who does not?—BE KIND.

Be kind to your parents, for they are, and have been, very kind to you. When you were infants, your mothers nursed and watched and cared for you with such love as only mothers feel. When you were sick they tended you, and perhaps were the earthly means of saving the lives of many among you. Your fathers worked hard that you might be fed and clothed, and they took delight in seeing you grow up strong and healthy under your mothers' care. And surely you cannot be otherwise than kind to them! Therefore, 'Children, obey your parents in all things,' and watch for occasions of giving them pleasure. It is wonderful how many times a day you can do this, if you only try. And when they are old, if they should be spared till you grow up to be men and women, you can show your kindness of heart, and your gratitude, too, by working for them if they need it. And should they not be poor, there will still be many ways in which you may be kind to them.

Be kind to your brothers and sisters, and most of all to those who are younger than yourselves. This will tend to make them happy, and be one way of showing love for your parents.

Be kind to your school-fellows. You may often prevent much mischief and sorrow by a kind act. By helping the weak against the strong, by teaching the little ones pleasant games, by helping them with their lessons in a proper manner and at proper times, and by showing them, when you see them doing wrong, that it is, on the whole, much more easy and much more pleasant to do what is right.

Be kind to the sick and infirm. They have heavy trials to bear, and you who are strong and healthy may do many little things for them that will lighten their load of sorrow, and ease many a pang. The time will most likely come when you will be glad of some one to do like kindnesses for you.

Be kind to dumb creatures. The same God that made you, made them, and they are made in as wonderful a manner as you are; they are capable of enjoying pleasure, and often show themselves grateful for kindness. Sometimes it is necessary to kill them for food or for other purposes, but this should be always done in such a way as to cause them as little pain as possible. In training them for domestic use they may sometimes require punishment, but 'the merciful man is merciful to his beast,' and kindness should always be patiently tried first.

If you would be loved by others, if you would be happy in this world, if you would be happy in the world to come, Be Kind.

E. T. S.

GLASS.

at-ten-tion
ex-am-ine
ex-cess-ive
trans-pa-rent
ma-te-ri-al
lat-tic-es
cen-tu-ries
pro-por-tion
as-sist-ance
prob-a-ble
im-prove-ment
sub-stanc-es

This very common but most useful article is well worth our whole attention, while we examine it to find out some of its qualities, and try to learn a few other things about it, Glass is very useful to us, because it can be seen through. A thing that can be seen through is said to be transparent. Glass is very easily broken, and therefore we call it brittle. It is also hard, cold, and bright. It so much resembles pure ice, that it is said to have taken its name from it, *glacies* being the Latin for ice.

Glass is made chiefly from soda and sand melted together in a furnace, but several other substances are added to these in different proportions to make the various kinds of glass. For some the sand must be of the finest and whitest kind, such as is obtained from Lynn in Norfolk, and from Alum Bay in the Isle of Wight. One kind is called flint glass, another plate glass, another crown glass, used for common windows, and another bottle or green glass. The soda for making crown glass is obtained from the ashes of sea-weed. Very many articles for use and ornament are made of flint glass, and are produced by blowing melted glass, with a blowpipe or hollow iron tube. Then must follow a little shaping and rolling, with the assistance of a few simple tools, and soon a shapeless lump of matter becomes a useful and elegant article. Or they are moulded, and afterwards cut and polished.

When glass was first made in England is not known, but it has long been a source of great profit to the country. Nearly all the things used in making it are found in great abundance here, and the rest can be obtained at a cheap rate, so that it is probable that there may yet be rapid improvement in the art, especially as the heavy duty formerly paid has now been removed from it.

For many centuries window glass was only used for churches, the windows of private houses being filled with oiled paper or with wooden lattices.

Large quantities of crown and bottle glass are made at Newcastle and South Shields, because there is plenty of coal in that district. There are also glass factories at Birmingham, Liverpool, Bristol, Warrington, Leeds, Manchester, and London.

Sc.

KINDS OF CORN.

ce-re-als
pro-por-tion
nour-ish-ment
fi-brous
maize
straight
knot-ted
sup-port-ed
flex-i-ble
cul-ti-vate
re-sem-bling
poul-try
coars-er
vi-o-lence
won-der-ful

Among those plants which supply us with food, very many belong to one tribe which we call *the grasses*. Some of these grasses yield seeds which form an important article of food to man and beast. We give the name of grain, or corn, to these seeds, and the plants bearing them are called *corn plants, or cereals*. The corn plants contain a very large proportion of a mealy substance suitable for the support and nourishment of animal life. The principal corn plants are wheat, barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, millet, maize or Indian corn, and rice.

A corn plant has the following parts:—root stalk, leaves, and grain.

The root is fibrous, that is, formed of a number of thin threads called fibres.

The stalk is long, thin, and hollow, and is divided into several parts by joints, which make it stronger than if it consisted of only one straight piece.

The leaves are long and narrow, and end in a point. They grow from the joints from a sort of sheath round the stalk for some distance, and then branch out. The veins in them differ from those of most other plants, for they all run nearly parallel to each other, from the beginning to the end of the leaf.

The grain of some of the corn plants is bearded, that is, to each little seed a sort of long bristle is fastened, and each little grain has an outside skin called the husk.

These corn plants, so important as they are, are provided with wonderful means for protection. The length of their stalks raises the seed above the moisture of the earth. The stalks are so smooth that the rain runs down them to the root. They are knotted and supported by blades of grass, that their strength may resist the violence of the wind. They are pointed, flexible, and light, so that the birds cannot rest on them to pick out the grains; and the grains are lodged in husks, so that the sun may not shrivel them up, nor the moisture rot them.

Corn plants can be grown in most countries, so that if the harvest in one country fail, grain may be obtained in another.

Another thing worthy of notice is that corn can be stored up for future use for many years.

Wheat yields more flour than any other grain, and is a very important article of food in this country. More wheat is grown in England, in proportion to its size, than in any other country, and a great deal is brought into it from abroad. The best kind of bread is made from the flour of wheat, but in some places, it is made of barley, oats, or rye.

Barley is next in value to wheat, and is much used in England for the purpose of making malt for brewing.

Oats are the hardiest of all the corn plants, and flourish best in cold climates, where neither wheat nor barley can be raised with profit. In Scotland they form a principal part of the food of the people, and oatmeal is well known in many countries.

Rye is easily grown, but the bread made from it is much coarser than that made of wheat flour, and the straw is of nearly equal value with the grain.

Buckwheat, when green, is used as food for cattle, and poultry are fed with the ripened seeds.

Millet is sometimes used instead of rice, and sometimes as food for poultry. The Indian millet grows to a large size.

Maize or *Indian corn* is much larger than the corn of our country, and in some of the ears there are as many as 800 grains, thickly set, and resembling flattened peas. It is an article of food to an immense number of people in hot climates. The unripe ears are boiled and eaten, and the ripened grain is either used for bread, or boiled into a sort of soup.

Rice forms a large part of the food of the people of all warm climates, and in India immense numbers get scarcely anything else to eat.

Sc.

THE LITTLE BIRD.

un-fold
mor-tal
ach-ing
gold-en
deck-ed
pro-claim
realm
e-ter-nal
en-chant-ing
fash-ion-ed
Em-man-u-el
har-mo-ny

Come, tell me now, sweet little bird,
  Who decked thy wings with gold?
Who fashioned so thy tiny form,
  And bade thy wings unfold?

Who taught thee such enchanting power,
To soothe this aching heart;
And, with thy notes of harmony,
To mock the reach of art?

Thou fly'st away! who bade thee soar?
Who bade thee seek the sky,
And wander through yon silver cloud,
A speck to mortal eye?

Oh! had I but thy wings, sweet bird!
I'd mount where angels be,
And leave behind this world of sin,
A little thing like thee;

I'd mount where golden harps proclaim
Emmanuel's dying love,
And gladly hail th' eternal rest
Of that pure realm above.

JOHN PRINGLE.

USES OF WATER IN THE HOUSE.

morn-ing
scrub-bed
yawn-ed
stretch-ed
weath-er
pin-a-fores
hang-ing
doc-tor
pois-on
breath-ing
pa-rents
break-fast
po-ta-toes
crys-tal
sau-cers

George North's mother put each of her little children into a very large tub of water every morning; here they splashed about and threw the water over themselves, and were scrubbed from head to foot, and then rubbed dry. They were so fond of being in the water that some of them thought they would like to be little ducks, so that they could live in a pond and splash about all day.

George and his two little sisters were always rosy and active, their eyes were bright, and their hair was glossy like threads of silk. Some boys and girls who went to the same school had pale faces and dull, heavy eyes. They were always sleepy when they came to school, and often yawned and stretched their limbs; but they only washed their hands and faces in a little water in a basin, and of course they could not be rosy and bright. They were always chilly in the cold weather, but the little Norths were warm because they were well washed and rubbed every morning. Mrs. North was quite as fond of clean clothes as of clean boys and girls. Every week she rose early on the morning of washing-day, and her children's pinafores were hanging out to dry before some of her lazy neighbours were out of bed.

Little Susan did not like washing-days, but her mother said that little girls and boys would soon be ill if they did not wear clean clothes, that the water washed away from the dirty clothes all the dirt which, otherwise, would get into the skin again, and then Susy would be pale and sick. The house in which George's parents lived was so clean, that I do not think you would have found any dust if you had tried very hard. The floors were quite white, because Mrs. North scrubbed them with plenty of water every week, and the tables and kitchen things were quite as clean. Some people who lived near said, 'It was a good thing that the river had plenty of water in it, or some persons would have to go without any, for Mrs. North would use a small river for herself.' But they need not have cared if the river had been much smaller, for they very seldom scrubbed their houses or washed their clothes; indeed, you could not be quite sure about what the floors were made of, for they were nearer the colour of coal than of wood.

These people were very ill, and had to send for the doctor. He said they had the fever because the drain-pipes, which were made to carry all the dirt and waste away from the house, were filled up, and this dirt and waste were turning to poison, and the people of the house were breathing it into their bodies. He knew this by the bad smell in the house. So he had a great deal of water poured down the drain-pipes to wash all the dirt away. Two of the boys died of the fever. The doctor said 'they might have got well, but they were not strong like boys who were well washed and lived in clean houses.' George North began to think that his mother was very wise and good to keep him and his home so clean, and one day he tried to find out how often water was used. Every day he saw that it was water that made his tea or coffee for breakfast, and his porridge, and that his mother mixed water with the flour which made the bread, and washed the cups and saucers with water, and boiled the potatoes and the apple pudding for dinner in plenty of water, and gave him a drink of water when he was thirsty.

Water washes our bodies, our clothes, our houses, and our drain-pipes. We drink it when we are thirsty, and it cooks our food. What a good friend to us is the bright crystal water that God has made! S.

THE OWL.

yel-low
fierce
pounc-es
hoot-ing
screech-ing
shel-ter
re-sem-bles
church-es
sens-i-ble
aft-er-noon
an-i-mals
gov-ern-ess
fin-ish-ed
coun-try
beau-ti-ful

Kate and Rosa live in London. One afternoon, when they had a half-holiday, their mother took them to Regent's Park to see the animals in the beautiful gardens there.

They liked the birds best, and were much amused with that strange-looking one, called the owl. Next, day. at school, they asked Miss

Parker, their teacher, to give them a lesson about it. She said she would, but that they must first tell their school-fellows all they could remember of it from seeing it the day before. This they did, and when they had finished, and Miss Parker had talked about it, too, all the girls knew—what I hope you will know when you have read this lesson.

There are many kinds of owls, but only about eight of them are found in England.

One of the largest kinds is the *Great Eagle Owl*. This bird is about two feet long,—that's about the length of your arm, my little friend of ten years old. It is black and brown and yellow in colour, has large round eyes, a hooked beak, strong, sharp claws, and long ears sticking out from its head. Altogether it is very fierce-looking. It lives in holes of rocks or in woods. It stays at home in the day-time, but comes out to seek for food at night, as all owls do when they are not shut up in cages, like those which Kate and Rosa saw. It eats young fawns, hares, and rabbits, which it pounces down upon and carries off in its claws. It will also eat rats, mice, and frogs.

It makes its nest of sticks, and mostly lays three white eggs. The noise it makes is called *hooting*.

Another kind is the *Great Snowy Owl*, whose name has been given to it because its feathers are so soft and white.

Then there is the *Screech-Owl*, so called from the noise it makes.

The one we know best, however, is the common *White Owl*, which lives in hollow trees, barns, and outhouses in the country, and may also be found about the towers of old churches, where the ivy forms a shelter for it. It is smaller than the Great Eagle Owl, but resembles it in food and habits.

Some people have said that the owl is a very wise bird, because it stares so gravely out of its large round eyes, but that is about as sensible as it would be to say it is a very good one, because it likes churches.

E. A. C.

TRUTHFULNESS.

mon-key
school-room
be-lieve
prize
re-ceiv-ed
danc-ing
si-lence
school-fel-low
ques-tion
sur-pris-ed
teach-er
re-mem-ber
re-com-mend
re-pli-ed
un-truth

'Mamma,' said Willie Grant, 'our teacher said to us the other day, "Children, be sure you hold fast the truth." What did he mean? How can anyone hold fast truth?'

'Do you remember, Willie, asking me to let you take little Lizzie into the next street to see a monkey dancing on an organ?'

'Yes, mamma; and you said I might, if I

held fast to her hand all the time; and I did not let go once.'

'Suppose you had not held fast, Willie?'

'Then little Lizzie might have tumbled down and hurt herself, and you would not have trusted me again. I see now, mamma. To hold fast is to take great care of anything. The children were to take great care of the truth. I do, mamma, I am sure. I would not tell an untruth on any account.'

'Yet, Willie, if you are not very careful, you may fall into a habit nearly as bad. Did you see the girl I chose as our new nursemaid to-day?'

'Yes, mamma; but I thought you meant to have Mary Carter. A few weeks ago the teacher pointed her out as the one she could best recommend.'

'And what did I say at the time, Willie?'

'That you wished for one who spoke the truth, because she would have so much to do with my little brothers and sisters.'

'Listen, Willie, while I tell you why I chose Ellen Taylor in place of Mary Carter. One day several girls were in the school-room before school hours. Somebody had brought a large indiarubber ball, and the girls were soon having a fine game with it, throwing it as high as they could, and then seeing who could catch it. When the fun was at its height, a crash was heard—the ball had broken a window! The girls were much frightened, and for a moment no one spoke. Then some one said—

'"Let us say nothing about it. No one will know we have been in the school-room; teacher will think it was broken by a stone thrown from outside."

'"So she will, Mary Carter," cried several voices; "there was one broken in that way last week."

'"But that would not be the truth," said a voice that had not before spoken.

'"Nonsense, Ellen Taylor," said Mary Carter; "no one is going to tell an untruth."

'"But teacher will believe what is not true, if we keep silence, and that will be as bad as telling a lie."

'"Now don't be so unfriendly, Ellen. You know I would not tell an untruth. You just want to make yourself out better than anyone else," replied Mary Carter.

'"I am sorry if you will not tell. I do not wish to be unkind, but I will not hide the truth."

'"Then you will tell, Ellen, and have us all punished for playing in the school-room, when we have been told not to do so," said her school-fellows.

'"And I shall lose the prize for good conduct just a week before it will be given," added Mary Carter.

'"I wish you would all listen to me, and not hide the truth from teacher. She will not be very angry if we tell her how sorry we are. But if you will not join me, I will tell of myself."

'"And if you are asked who were with you, will you tell?" inquired Mary Carter.

'"No, I will ask teacher to please not to question me, except about myself."

'When school began, Ellen went to her teacher, and said, "If you please, ma'am, I was playing with a ball in the school-room, and it went through a window and broke it. I quite forgot for the time that you had told me not to play in the school-room. I am very sorry, and will try not to forget again."

'Then the teacher asked if any others were playing with her, but Ellen begged not to be pressed for an answer. Next the teacher called upon those who had been with Ellen Taylor to stand out from the rest, but no one moved. Then, to the surprise of all, she called upon them each by name to come and stand by Ellen Taylor. As Mary Carter came, in answer to her name, she looked very much ashamed, and hid her face, for she could not bear the rest of the school to look at her. Till now she had been looked upon as a girl who always spoke the truth.'

'Mamma, had Ellen told of them?'

'No, Willie; Ellen had said nothing more than the whole school heard her say, but their teacher had been sitting writing, in a room next to the school-room, when the window was broken, and had heard all that passed. When we went to-day to see the prizes given, I was very much surprised to see that Ellen Taylor, and not Mary Carter, received the prize for good conduct; for last time I was at the school it was thought that Mary Carter was sure of having it.'

'I see, mamma, Mary Carter did not "hold fast the truth," and so she lost the prize for good conduct.'

'Yes, Willie; and I choose Ellen Taylor, and not Mary Carter, for my nursemaid, because she knew how to "hold fast the truth."'

E. K.

SALT.

cus-tom
day-light
in-stead
shal-low
crys-tal
crys-tal-line
ques-tion
whole-some
di-ges-tion
pre-sent
plen-ti-ful
com-par-ed
of-fend-ed
nour-ish-es
part-i-cles

All children should learn as much as they can about the common things which they see and use every day.

One of these is salt. Let us see what we can learn about that.

First, 'Where does it come from?'

Some salt comes out of the earth, where it is found in mines. A great deal is also obtained from sea-water and salt springs.

The first kind is got by digging, and is found in various parts of England, but is most plentiful at Northwich in Cheshire. Our salt mines, however, are not to be compared for size with those in Poland and some other parts of the world. At one place in Poland so much salt has been dug out, that a good sized town might be built at the bottom of the mine.

It was once the custom in that country for the king to send anyone who offended him to work in the salt-mines, instead of putting him in prison, and there hundreds of poor people stayed for many years, never coming up to see the daylight, until the king gave them leave.

This rock-salt is of a reddish colour, like stone. It is dissolved in water, when the earthy part sinks to the bottom. The clear liquor is then put into large shallow vessels, which are exposed to a great heat, when the water goes off in steam or vapour, and the salt is left behind. Sea-water, or spring-water which contains salt is treated in a similar manner.

Springs are made salt by the water lying on the rock-salt below the surface of the earth.

I was going to ask, 'What is salt like?' now that we have answered the question, 'Where does it come from?' I think I hardly need say much about that, however, as I am sure you can all tell me that it is white, rough to the touch, made up of little grains or particles, and has a taste of its own, unlike that of anything else; though, perhaps, you do not all know that those tiny particles are properly called crystals, and because salt is made up of them, it is called a crystalline substance. 'What is the use of salt?' is our third question. The chief use of salt is to preserve things in a good and wholesome state, which would otherwise decay and become unfit to use, in a very short time. Such are fish and meat. Salt is wholesome to eat, if we do not take too much of it. It assists digestion, by which is meant that it helps the bread and butter, and other things we eat, to turn quickly into blood, which flows all over our bodies, and nourishes them. In some countries salt is very scarce, and the result is that children are as much pleased to get a piece of it to eat, as girls in this country are delighted with sweetmeats. Some years ago it was thought a great deal more of in this country than it is at present, because there was a heavy tax on it. In olden times gentlemen and their servants used to dine at the same table, but the ladies and gentlemen sat above where the salt was placed, while the servants sat below it. A. C.

THE POTATO.

po-ta-to	in-jur-ed	nour-ish-ment
po-ta-toes	scarc-i-ty	moun-tain-ous
whol-ly	ne-ces-sa-ry	suc-ces-sion
on-ion	ex-cel-lent	star-va-tion
health	ab-so-lute	un-whole-some

Few people would think they had a good dinner unless potatoes formed a part of it. On the tables of the rich and poor alike this useful article of food is found. It seems strange, then, that potatoes were wholly unknown in these islands 300 years ago, and that it is little more than 100 years since they became common.

The potato which we eat is not, as many persons suppose, a root, but like the onion, carrot, and turnip, is an underground stem. We call the particular form of stem which the potato takes a *tuber*; the true roots are those thread-like vessels beneath the tuber, which supply the whole plant with nourishment.

In considering potatoes as an article of food, we must remember that food is needed for two different purposes. First, we want it to supply the waste which the body is constantly suffering, and second, to keep up the heat necessary for life. For the first of these uses flesh is most useful, and next to that bread and the other kinds of food made from corn. But for the second of these uses we need food containing sugar, fat, or starch, all of which will readily burn. Now the potato contains a very great quantity of starch, and is therefore excellent food if eaten with flesh meat, but is not suited to be eaten alone. If people were to live entirely on potatoes, they would be obliged to eat a very great quantity, which would be both wasteful and bad for the health; if, on the other hand, they were to eat nothing but meat and bread, they would find it both unwholesome and expensive. A mixed diet is by far the best.

One great advantage which has arisen from the use of potatoes is that much land is now used which would otherwise, perhaps, have continued to lie waste. Small patches of good land in mountainous districts, which can only be tilled by the spade, and sandy soils where there is abundance of rain, though unsuited for corn crops, produce a great quantity of excellent food when planted with potatoes. This increase in the amount of food raised, and the production of a kind of food not liable to be injured by the same causes as injure the corn crops, has done much to prevent famines which used formerly to occur in Europe.

But it would be very unwise to depend entirely on potatoes for food, as the Irish people did until lately; for the tuber always sprouts in the spring, and so potatoes cannot be kept more than a year. If, then, for any reason the potato harvest should fail, the people who depended on it for food would be left to absolute starvation. But wheat can be kept even for hundreds of years, so that a good quantity is constantly kept stored up against a time of scarcity.

Potatoes should never be eaten raw, either by men or animals. All starch foods require cooking before they can become nourishing. Potatoes may be either roasted, steamed, or boiled. For the two latter methods they are mostly peeled before being cooked. If boiled, the water should be drained off a minute before they are quite done, and the saucepan then replaced on the fire to drive off the steam; but care should be taken to shake them frequently, so that they may not burn to the bottom. In about two minutes they will be dry and floury.

Potato-plants may be raised from seed, but the usual way is to plant the tubers which contain buds, which we call eyes. Some persons cut the potato into as many pieces as there are eyes, from each of which a plant will grow. The seeds are contained in what we call the potato-apple, but they are seldom sown except when new kinds are wanted. There are many kinds of potatoes which come into season at different times, from May to October, so that a succession may be kept up all through the summer. E. T.

THE HUMMING-BIRD.

crea-ture
de-light
fra-grant
glanc-ing
verd-ant
cay-man
crim-son
an-cient
change-ful
pas-sion
Am-a-zon
fan-palm
flow-er
palm-et-to
moss-es

The humming-bird! the humming-bird!
So fairy like and bright;
It lives among the sunny flowers,
A creature of delight!

In the radiant islands of the East,
Where fragrant spices grow,
A thousand, thousand humming-birds
Go glancing to and fro.

Like living fires they flit about,
Scarce larger than a bee,
Among the broad palmetto leaves,
And through the fan-palm tree.

And in those wild and verdant woods,
Where stately mosses tower,
Where hangs from branching tree to tree
The scarlet passion flower;

Where on the mighty river banks,
La Plate and Amazon,
The cayman, like an old tree trunk,
Lies basking in the sun;

There builds her nest the humming-bird,
  Within the ancient wood—
Her nest of silky cotton down—
  And rears her tiny brood.

She hangs it to a slender twig,
  Where waves it light and free,
As the campanero tolls his song
  And rocks the mighty tree.

All crimson is her shining breast,
  Like to the red, red rose;
Her wing is the changeful green and blue,
  That the neck of the peacock shows.

Thou happy, happy humming-bird!
  No winter round thee low'rs;
Thou never saw'st a leafless tree
  Nor land without sweet flowers.

A reign of summer joyfulness
  To thee for life is given;
Thy food the honey from the flower,
  Thy drink the dew of heaven.

MARY HOWITT.

THE EAGLE.

prey
part-ridge
pierc-ing
tal-ons
fierce
fright-en
choos-es
drown-ed
as-cend-ed
con-ceal
sur-pris-ed
ap-pe-tite
dis-tance
in-crease
eag-let

The eagle is not found in England, but has very often been seen in Scotland, which is a country very near to ours.

The eagle is a bird of prey, which means, one that kills smaller birds or animals for food.

If you were to see an eagle, you would be very much surprised at its size, for a full-grown female, which is larger than the male, is sometimes three and a half feet in length, and when its wings are spread they measure nine feet across.

The eagle is strong enough to carry away a lamb or young pig, and has sometimes seized little children. It also kills hares and rabbits, and some are very fond of the flesh of the cat. Swans, partridges, and other game, and many kinds of fish, also fall victims to the appetite of the 'king of birds.' The eagle's sight is so strong that when it is at a great distance from the earth, it will choose an animal for its prey, and darting down upon it, will kill it by piercing it with its sharp talons or claws so suddenly, that the poor creature has no time for either surprise or fright, and often does not feel any pain. From this we see that, though strong and fierce, the eagle is not a cruel bird, for it does not tease or frighten its prey before killing it.

Sometimes the eagle chooses for its prey a fish which is too large for it to kill or to carry away, and having driven its talons into the back of the fish, is unable to remove them, so that when the fish dives deep into the water the bird is drowned, while the fish is killed.

But the eagle has a very clever method of obtaining smaller fish. There is a bird which is called the fish-hawk, and the eagle watches this bird, but is careful to conceal himself from view. The fish-hawk dives under the water for its prey, and as soon as it appears above the surface of the water, the eagle prepares for a chase. When the fish-hawk has ascended to some distance, the eagle spreads his wings and follows it. As the former is burdened with the weight of the fish, the eagle soon gains upon him, and when quite near, the fish-hawk, who now thinks only of his life, drops the fish in order to fly more easily, while the eagle, whose object has been to make him do this, quickly seizes the fish before it falls to the ground.

The nest of the eagle is different from any you have seen. It is made only of sticks, loosely woven together. As this nest is repaired every year, instead of a new one being made, it increases to such a size that it can be seen at a great distance.

The eagle is very fond of its young ones, which are called eaglets, and takes care to bring them plenty of food. E. A. C.

OBEDIENCE TO PARENTS.

sol-dier
pa-rent
per-form
sur-prise
com-plaint
com-mands
grum-ble
re-quest
un-pleas-ant
for-bid-den
re-fus-ing
o-be-di-ent

Obedience is a duty which every girl owes to her parents. Just as a soldier has to obey his officer, and perform many duties, without a single word or complaint, so should a girl perform her parents' commands or wishes.

Never grumble, or say you 'do not want;' but as soon as the order is given, or you know your parents' wish, set about it at once, and it will surprise you to find how much better and quicker it may be done without grumbling than with it.

I know you will sometimes have some not very pleasant tasks to perform; but you must make the best of a bad matter, by doing them well. Grumbling and crying will never help you one single bit; try to think of this, the next time you feel inclined to cry or grumble.

You will not, however, always have unpleasant things to do, for you will often find it very pleasant to do as you are bid.

Sometimes you will be told not to do a certain thing, and it may be something you very much wish to do. The best thing for you to do in such a case, is to find something else that you may do; and so try to forget your little trouble.

I dare say you have often thought when your parents would not grant a request, or had forbidden you to go out, that it was very unkind of them. But I can assure you that they always had a very good reason for refusing. They can tell a great deal better than you can, what is for your good, for they are much older and wiser than you are. But you have no right to ask them their reasons for telling you to do or not to do anything. Then, again, if you think of the trouble you have given them ever since you were a little baby; how hard father has had to work to earn money, and how much mother has done for you every day, surely you will do all they wish, to show how grateful you are for what they have done for you.

Perhaps you may not have noticed how very happy you always feel, after you have been obedient; if not, try it next time you are tempted to do wrong. But the good resulting from obedience does not end with you, it makes the person you are obeying feel pleased and happy. Neither does the good end with the person who is obeyed. The girl who is always obedient, sets a good example to brothers and sisters, playmates, and school-fellows; and by so doing, pleases not only her father and mother, but also the great God in heaven. E. F. Y.

COAL.

dis-tricts
pro-gress
mis-chief
pick-axe
in-creas-ing
wool-len
pur-su-ed
anx-ious
pro-pel-led
e-nor-mous
em-bed-ded
gal-ler-ies
vent-i-late
col-lier-y
sup-ply-ing

Coal is dug from pits or mines, called coal-pits. They are often far below the surface of the ground, and sometimes pass even under the bed of the ocean, so that the men who work in them can hear the waves roaring over their heads. Sometimes, however, a seam of coal lies within a few inches of the ground. A very great quantity is found in England. The districts in which it is dug are called *coal-fields*, and lie chiefly to the north and west of the country.

We all know the value of coal, and the comfort of a fire made from it, and understand that it would be a sad thing if we could no longer obtain it. Perhaps, however, we are not all aware that coal was not always a black, shiny substance found beneath the ground, as it now is, but that it existed hundreds of years ago in the form of trees and ferns of enormous size. These, in the progress of time, have become embedded far down in the earth, and at length they have undergone such great changes, that green trees have become lumps of black stone, and *wood* has been changed to *coal*.

A coal-mine is a gloomy-looking place, with black walls and roof, and all things black about it. It is entered by a long shaft, and contains galleries which often reach for several miles. The sun never shines into these pits, but lamps cast a dim light around. The miners work very hard, and are exposed to fearful dangers. Though much care is taken to ventilate the pits, by supplying fresh air, yet the air still remains very impure. Colliers are also exposed to danger from the fall of stones, the sudden rush of a stream of water into a pit, and from many other sources. Hundreds of men and boys pass nearly all their lives in these dismal places, for the benefit of those above ground, who seldom think of their toil.

There are said to be seventy different kinds of coal, some bright and full of gas, and others dry and gritty. It is mostly found in blocks of enormous size, and is often brought down by blasting, or in some other violent manner. The smaller portions are removed by pickaxes. Tramways, or railroads, are laid down in all parts of the mines, and convey the small loaded waggons to the mouths of the pits. The coal is then drawn up in waggons, by means of chains. Horses are also employed. In one large colliery as many as 150 horses and 700 men are constantly at work.

Wherever there is a large supply of coal, there are sure to be plenty of factories close at hand; because the steam-engine is worked by means of coal. All our chief trades prosper where coal is abundant. In South Lancashire is a large coal-field, and there is the seat of the cotton trade. In Yorkshire coal is very plentiful, and there the woollen trade is carried on. In Staffordshire and South Wales, where there is also great abundance both of coal and iron, the iron trade is pursued. Wherever coal is found, there is plenty of employment for those who are anxious to work.

In Northumberland and Durham lies the Newcastle coal-field, producing forty different kinds of coal of very good quality. This supplies fuel for the most distant parts of England, and a great deal is sent to London and foreign countries by ships and railroad. The towns of Newcastle, Sunderland, North and South Shields, and many others around, are supported by this trade, which has flourished in these districts for the last 600 years.

Besides being used for fuel in our houses and mills, coal is employed in making steam for the steam-engines by which ships and railway trains are propelled. The common gas used for lighting the streets and houses in all large towns is made of coal. After this gas is made, the cinders which are left receive the name of coke, which also is used as fuel.

About 450 years ago the people of London made a great outcry against the burning of coal, on account of the smoke it caused, and laws were passed to hinder its use. The mischief arose from the houses being built without proper chimneys. People now know the value of coal, and that it exceeds all the riches of other mines; and although a lump of coal is not one of the most beautiful things in nature, yet the supply of it, because it gives the means of advancing trade and increasing comfort, is of far more worth than gold, silver, or diamonds. M. A. F.

BIRDS.

shad-ows
wan-der
heath-er
orch-ard
chor-us
cuc-koo
mount-ain
tang-led
brake
ed-dies
hol-i-day
cot-ta-ger
beau-ti-ful
warb-ler
whist-led

Birds, birds! ye are beautiful things,
With your earth-treading feet and your cloud-
cleaving wings;
Where shall man wander, and where shall he
dwell,
Beautiful birds, that ye come not as well?
Ye have nests on the mountain all rugged
and stark,
Ye have nests in the forest, all tangled and
dark;

Ye build and ye brood 'neath the cottager's
eaves,
And ye sleep on the sod 'mid the bonnie green
leaves;
Ye hide in the heather, ye lurk in the brake,
Ye dive in the sweet flags that shadow the
lake;
Ye skim where the stream parts the orchard-
deck'd land,
Ye dance where the foam sweeps the desolate
strand.
Beautiful birds! ye come thickly around,
When the bud's on the branch, and the snow's
on the ground;
Ye come when the richest of roses flush out,
And ye come when the yellow leaf eddies
about.

Beautiful birds! how the schoolboy remem-
bers
The warblers that chorused his holiday tune;
The robin that chirped in the frosty Decem-
bers,
The blackbird that whistled through flower-
crowned June!
That schoolboy remembers his holiday ramble,
When he pulled every blossom of palm he
could see,
When his finger was raised as he stopped in
the bramble,
With 'Hark! there's the cuckoo; how close
he must be!'

W. H. THOMPSON.

A TABLE-CLOTH.

fash-ion
in-jur-y
dam-ask
cen-tre
worst-ed
pre-fer-red
beau-ti-ful
ma-chine
di-rec-tions
weav-ing
re-quir-ed
greas-ed
ap-pear-ance
dis-com-fort
po-ta-toes

We all like to see a good dinner upon the table—meat and potatoes, puddings and pies; but if these were merely put upon the table, and we were told to help ourselves, we should be obliged to do so in a very rude and savage fashion, which would cause discomfort, dirt, and waste. We need knives to cut our food, and forks to carry it to our mouths; dishes and plates to hold it, and, among other things, a cloth to cover the table. And all these should be neatly arranged, for an untidy dinner-table is no credit to anyone. Every little girl should learn how to lay the cloth. She should spread it evenly upon the table, taking care that the sides and ends of the cloth fall equally over those of the table. Then the table-spoons and salt-stands should be placed at the corners, and a knife, fork, spoon, and glass placed for each person, or more if they are required. Dish-mats should be placed where the dishes are to be put, so that the cloth may not be stained or greased, and the table injured by the heat. The cruet-frame, containing mustard, pepper, and other things, should be placed in the centre.

As the table-cloth soon becomes soiled by use, it should be such a one as can be easily washed. It would not be proper, then, to make it of woollen cloth, or worsted or silk, or to dye it blue or green, or crimson. Such table-covers are, it is true, used for our parlour tables, but they would not do for dinner-cloths.

Our dinner-cloth, then, must be made either of linen or cotton, both of which are white, or nearly so, and can be easily washed. Of the two, linen is much preferred, as it takes a beautiful gloss after washing and mangling, keeps its colour better, and lasts much longer; but it is much more expensive than cotton. Sometimes table-cloths are made of linen and cotton mixed, though all the best are made of linen only.

A table-cloth is not always like a sheet, a piece of linen cut off a roll and hemmed. It is mostly woven as a whole, and can neither be cut smaller nor joined to make it larger without injuring its appearance. It is not plain in texture, like common linen, but is woven in patterns. Sometimes these patterns are small and simple, like the diaper for children's pinafores, but sometimes they are large and beautiful, with figures of birds and flowers and other pretty objects.

As these patterns are formed by the different direction given to the threads in weaving, it follows that greater care, more expensive machines, and a greater number of threads are needed than for plain weaving. These are the reasons why large and handsome table-cloths are so expensive, the price being sometimes as much as several pounds. Stuffs of any kind woven in patterns are called damasks, from Damascus, in Syria, where they were first made. There are silk damasks for ladies' dresses, stuff damasks for curtains and furniture, and linen damasks for table-cloths.

Most of our best table-cloths are woven either in the town of Dumfermline, in Scotland, or in Belfast, in Ireland. Not very much linen-weaving is carried on in England, as the flax of which linen is made is more easily grown and worked in a moister climate than ours.

E. T.

THE SWANS.

cous-in
isl-ands
crumbs
cyg-nets
fierce
eas-i-ly
sol-diers
Swe-den
dress-ed
trim-med
hand-some
Aus-tra-li-a
scramb-ling
grace-ful-ly
bit-ter-ly

When I was a little girl, my cousin Milly used sometimes to take me for a walk. The nicest walk was through the park, and the best part of the park was the lake where the ducks and the swans were. It was a very large piece of water, with two or three little islands in it, covered with trees and shrubs to the water's edge. On these islands the ducks and swans would sometimes make nests and lay their eggs, but we could not go over to look for them, because we had no boat. I used to think it would be very pleasant to row across and see a nest, but I know now that if any stranger had gone to the islands, the birds would have taken fright and made no more nests there; for they are very shy and timid about the safety of their eggs.

One day we were standing by the edge of the lake, feeding the birds with some stale bread-crumbs we had brought for them. There was one beautiful swan, white as snow, which used to swim about in a very stately manner, as swans always do. He was never in a hurry, like the noisy little ducks, but sometimes, when they were scrambling and fighting for some very nice little bit, the swan would sail up to them, and reach, with his long neck, right over them, heads and bodies and all, and pick up the bread from their very beaks, leaving them to swim off and grumble at losing it. They did not dare to fight the swan, because he was so much bigger than they.

Well, we had been feeding and watching them for some time, when Milly looked over at the island, and called out, 'Look! there is the other swan, that we have missed so long.' Sure enough, there she was; and, better still, she was busy with a whole family of cygnets, or little swans, just hatched, and coming down to the water for their first swim. They were very funny-looking little things; not at all like their mother, for they were dark grey instead of white, and covered with soft down instead of glossy feathers. They looked very strange, walking on the grass; for all water-birds are awkward walkers, because their legs are so far back on their bodies; but when they reached the water, we could see how easily and how gracefully they can swim, just because their legs are so placed.

After a few days, the swan brought her brood of cygnets to our side of the lake, and the little ones took their share of the crumbs. Once a dog came running to the lake, and barked at them. You should have seen how grand the swan looked then! She reared herself up in the water, and stretched out her wings, longer than a man's arm, and arched her neck, and hissed at the dog, and looked so fierce that doggie gave a yelp and ran away as fast as he could. Milly said he was a wise dog, for a swan is able to kill a man; its wings are so strong that a blow from one would break a leg or an arm at once; and it can bite very sharply too.

There was a man who lived in a nice little lodge in the park, whose duty it was to take care of the birds. He was very kind to us, because he thought we were fond of his pets. He knew every duck, goose, and swan there, I believe, and he used to tell us all about them. He had seen their nests and eggs, and the birds did not seem to mind his seeing them, because they knew him as well as he knew them. He told us how the swans build their nests among the reeds in moist places, and he showed us some eggs that he had found in the nest of a swan that was killed. They were much larger than a hen's eggs, of course; perhaps three or four times as large.

Then he told us how there are some places in the north of Europe where swans live wild in great numbers. They come to warmer countries in the winter, but go back in summer to their quiet, still lakes and ponds, where few people are about to disturb them. Once he showed us a flock of them, so high up in the air that we should never have seen them if he had not pointed them out to us. They were flying with their long necks stretched out and their legs hanging down, and they kept as good order as if they were soldiers; one bird went first, two followed, three in the next line, four in the next, and so on. Our friend the keeper said most likely they had come from Norway or Sweden, and were going to France or some warm place, because the weather was so bitterly cold that year that they could get no worms and frogs to eat in their own country.

Then he showed us some down that grows on the swan's body, under the feathers, to keep the bird warm in the water, or in very cold weather. As soon as I saw it, I remembered that our baby's cloak was trimmed with swans'-down, and how pretty and soft it looked, just fit for a baby to wear. Milly said that the trimming cost a good deal, and the keeper said, 'Yes, it is very hard to get, for it has to be taken from the nest, or from the body of the bird itself.' I could not make out how it was that the down did not get wet, and so make the bird cold instead of warm. But the keeper showed me some of the larger feathers, and pointed out to me that the parts of the feather lap over each other like tiles on a roof. And he explained that every feather has at its root a tiny bag filled with oil, which the bird, with its beak, spreads over the feathers, and this helps to keep off the water. I had often seen the birds dressing the feathers with their beaks, and I had noticed how the water rolls off a swan's back; so now the matter was quite plain.

Long afterwards, when I went to the park again, I saw two black swans. They had been brought from Australia, and were a very great wonder to English people, who had never heard of swans being anything but white. They were not nearly so handsome as my old friends; nor were they so large or so well-shaped, nor, I think, so tame. I like my dear old white swans best. S.

TIDINESS.

un-ti-dy
gos-sip
neigh-bour
un-hap-py
piec-es
an-swer
cer-tain-ly
ev-er-y
gloom-y
wear-ing
com-fort
fur-ni-ture
cu-ri-ous
pat-terns
ques-tion

What is it that makes comfort in a home? Is it fine furniture with curious patterns worked in dust?

You will at once say, 'No;' and I might ask you many more questions of the same sort, to which you would give the same answer.

It is certainly not the things in a house that make comfort, but rather the way in which they are used and the house is kept.

If you walk into a house, and find everything wearing a gloomy look, the mother with an untidy dress spending her time in gossip with her neighbours, or reading some worthless book, you will not expect to see a neat and cheerful room, and will be pretty sure to find the chairs out of place, a spoon here, a dirty plate there, and, perhaps, an unhappy-looking baby on the floor pulling a book to pieces.

When you step into the next house, what a contrast you meet with! Here you find the mistress, though she has not nearly so much money to keep house with as the other, with neatly-brushed hair, a tidy dress neatly put on, and perhaps a clean and smiling baby in her arms, or rolling on the floor out of danger whilst she is doing her sewing. Her house is pleasant to look at; so is she, and so is her baby; and this is just what her husband will think when he comes home from work.

What makes all the difference? It is this: she knows what tidiness means, and is not tempted by a love of gossip or light reading to neglect her duty in this respect.

Some girls are untidy in their ways, and if they do not correct them they will grow up into untidy, slatternly women.

There is nothing like forming good habits when you are young, for as 'ill weeds grow apace,' bad habits are sure to get worse and worse, and more difficult to alter the longer you allow them to have their own way.

So, little girls, when you return home from school, your first duty is to give a kind greeting to your parents, next to put your books and slates in their proper place, and hang up your hats and cloaks, and then to wash and make yourselves ready to perform whatever duties your parents may require you to do.

If you throw down your books and clothes on the first table or chair that may be at hand, you will not only have the trouble of removing them, but you will most likely not be able to find them when you want them again, and that will cause you to be late for school, as well as keep your room untidy. L. S.

SPONGE.

cur-rents
Greece
des-cent
past-ure
prac-tis-ed
dredg-ing
re-quire
e-las-tic
por-ous
qual-i-ties
peo-ple
zoo-phytes
cu-ri-ous
re-quis-ite
pen-in-su-la

Little Ellen Somers had just been cleaning her slate with a piece of sponge which her mother had given her for the purpose, when she suddenly exclaimed, 'Mamma, does sponge grow out of the ground?'

'No, it is an animal substance, my dear,' said her mother, 'found at the bottom of the sea in various parts of the world.'

'How strange!' said Ellen; 'I always thought it was a plant.'

'It is so much like one,' said her mother, 'that for a long time men supposed it to be one, for it seems to grow on the rocks and stones at the bottom of the sea. It is, however, now found to belong to the very lowest class of animals, called *zoophytes* or *plant-animals*. These zoophytes seem to be half plants and half animals. Sponge is really the house of a soft, jelly-like fish, which, during its life, fills those little tubes you see in it.'

'But, mamma,' said Ellen, 'does this curious animal eat and drink? Please tell me all about it.'

'Look at that piece of sponge you have in your hand, Ellen, and you will see that the pores or holes on the under side of it are larger than those on the upper. On this side it clings to the rocks and stones at the bottom of the sea. The animal has the power of drawing in strong currents of water through the smaller pores, and of making it pass out again through the larger ones. This action is always going on, and whilst the water is so passing, the requisite food is drawn from it for the support of the animal.'

'It seems a rather lazy sort of life, mamma,' said Ellen. 'But how do they get the sponge from the bottom of the sea?'

'Get your map of Europe, Ellen, and find the country of Greece. You see around Greece are a great many islands, and in the sea between these islands the best kind of sponge is found. The people of some of them are trained even from early childhood to dive to the bottom of the sea for sponge. To quicken their descent, they have a large, heavy stone fastened to them, and attached to the boat by a rope. But even practised divers cannot remain more than two minutes under water. Coarser kinds of sponge are found in most seas, and are chiefly obtained by dredging, that is, by spreading out a net in the sea in the shape of a bag, with an iron scraper at its mouth. This scraper separates the sponge from the rocks, and it is collected in the net, and brought to the surface.'

'Is the sponge fit to use, mamma, when it comes to the surface of the water?' said Ellen.

'It does not want much to be done to it, except to be well washed and rinsed; for when it is removed from the water, the soft, jelly-like animal drains away, and there is nothing but the porous, elastic sponge remaining. These are the two qualities which make it so useful.

L. C. L.

THE BUTTERFLY'S FIRST FLIGHT.

pris-on
ard-ent
de-light
di-vine
fra-grance

man-sion
flight
sun-beams
pleas-ure
re-pos-ing

joy-ous-ly
glo-ry
glo-ries
lei-sure
ex-hal-ing

Thou hast burst from thy prison,
Bright child of air,
Like a spirit just risen
From its mansion of care;

Thou art joyously winging
Thy first ardent flight,
Where the gay lark is singing
His notes of delight;

Where the sunbeams are throwing
  Their glories on thine,
Till thy colours are glowing
  With tints more divine;

Then tasting new pleasure
  In summer's green bowers,
Reposing at leisure
  On fresh-opened flowers;

Or, delighted to hover,
  Around them to see,
Whose charms, airy rover,
  Bloom sweetest for thee;

And fondly exhaling
  Their fragrance, till day
From thy bright eye is falling
  And fading away.

Then, seeking some blossom
  Which looks to the west,
Thou dost find in its bosom
  Sweet shelter and rest.

And there dost betake thee
  Till darkness is o'er,
And the sunbeams awake thee
  To pleasure once more.

AGNES STRICKLAND

A TABLE-KNIFE AND FORK.

prin-ci-pal
i-vo-ry
buf-fa-lo
tor-toise-shell
shoul-der
pal-ette
E-gyp-tian
in-ven-tion
cen-tu-ry
pos-si-ble
de-struct-ive
Zea-land-er
un-der-mine
part-i-cles
em-ploy-ment

A table-knife has two principal parts, the blade and the handle.

The handle is generally made of wood or bone, but ivory, stag-horn, buffalo, and cow-horn, tortoiseshell, and mother-of-pearl are also used for this purpose. The blade is a long, thin, flat piece of steel rounded at the top, but with a straight blunt edge at the back, and a sharp one in the front. The thick part of it which is close to the handle is called the shoulder, and the long piece of iron running into the handle, by means of which the blade is fastened to it, is called the tang.

The parts of a fork are the handle, the tang, the shank, the shoulder, and the prongs. Knives are used for cutting, scraping, and spreading, and are named according to the uses to which they are applied. Thus we may speak of the dinner or table-knife, the carving-knife, the fruit-knife, the pocket-knife, the pen-knife, the paper-knife, the butcher's-knife, the oyster-knife, the palette knife, the razor, and the lancet.

Knives were not always made so well

as in the present day. The ancient Egyptians used flint knives, the New Zealanders made them of bone, and even shark's teeth have been used instead of metal for this purpose; but they are now brought to the highest perfection in steel, and the best are made at Sheffield in Yorkshire.

Forks are made of silver, or a common metal coated with it, but those most used are made of steel. They are a more modern invention than knives. The Italians are said to have been the first to make use of them, towards the end of the fifteenth century. We may wonder at our ancestors doing without so useful an article at table, but their food was dressed in such a manner as to be very tender, and therefore easily pulled to pieces. Some nations even now use neither knives nor forks when eating; for a Chinaman will use his chopsticks, and a native of India will carry a small knife about his person, but will eat his rice and curry with his fingers. It is difficult to convince him that his way is not the best. He will say, 'When you use a fork, you put it over and over again into your mouth, and that is not cleanly, according to our ideas.' The fork-grinder's employment has been said to be more destructive to human life than any other trade in the United Kingdom, because the process of fork-grinding is always performed on a dry stone, and the fine particles of stone and metal are every moment inhaled by the grinders. This undermines their health, produces disease of the lungs, and very frequently leads to an early death.

E. L. J.

PIGEONS.

scratch-ing
spar-row
pre-ci-sion
im-mense
re-gion
plum-age
tem-per-ate
tur-tle-dove
sur-round-ed
un-err-ing
va-ri-e-ty
scrip-tu-ral
ex-pres-sion
af-fec-tion
news-pa-per

Pigeons belong to the order of *scratching* birds, like the hen, the turkey, and others, for they have short, strong, bent claws, fitted for scratching up out of the ground grain and seeds, of which their food consists. In some respects, however, they are like the *perching* birds, such as the sparrow and the thrush, for they perch on trees as well as walk on the ground, and they live together in pairs, the male as well as the female sitting on the eggs during hatching.

Pigeons are found in great variety over every part of the globe. They all possess great beauty of plumage, but by far the most beautiful are found in hot countries. There are many kinds of pigeons, but it is believed that they all derive their origin from the *stock-dove*, or wood-pigeon. This bird is of a deep-blue ash colour, the breast shaded with green and purple, the wings marked with two black bars, the back white, and the tail barred near the end with black. From it, by art, man has produced an almost endless variety of kinds, forms, and colours. The four chief species known in the temperate regions are, the ring-dove, the rock pigeon, the stock-dove, and turtle-dove.

The *ring-dove* has a pretty ring or circle round its neck, and is very fond of its native woods.

The *turtle-dove* has a yellow circle in its eye, and a crimson circle around its eyelids. It has a very tender, sweet note, and is very fond of its mate. If a pair be put in a cage and one of them dies, the other will not long survive.

The *carrier pigeon* has a broad circle of naked white skin around its eye, and a very dark blue plumage. It is so called because it is often used for carrying letters and tiny newspapers. It was made use of hundreds of years ago by the Romans, and also during the late war in France, when Paris was surrounded by Prussian troops. For this purpose they are carried from home, and the letter being tied under the wing, the bird is thrown into the air, when, after whirling round once or twice to discover its route, it darts off with unerring precision on its journey. The love of these birds for their home and young, and their power of flight, have caused them to be thus used.

The *passenger pigeons* of North America go long journeys in immense flocks, sometimes two hundred miles long and a mile wide; when they alight, the branches bend under them, and they are easily knocked down.

There are many other varieties, as the *fan-tail*, the *pouter*, the *nun*, the *dragon*, and the *tumbler*. Just at the time the young are able to fly and to shift for themselves, they are fit for table.

Pigeons have a double crop, and the raw food taken by the parent is formed in one of these into a milky fluid, with which they feed their young. It is passed from the parent's beak into that of the young bird. Unlike other birds, pigeons drink a draught of water like beasts, instead of holding up their heads to let it trickle down their throats.

The houses we build for tame pigeons are called dovecotes. These should always, if possible, face northwards, and should have an outer and an inner division, so that the bird may build its nest in either, according to the season. It is well to put a lump of salt in each cote, as pigeons are very fond of it, and will never leave a spot where they are well supplied. Though they are reared in these cotes, yet they thrive better if they can be induced to make their own home in a roof or old tower, and to get their own living. They live thus in many places in London and other large towns.

Wild pigeons build chiefly in the topmost branches of the forest, and as far as possible from man. They make a careless nest of dry sticks, so loosely put together that the eggs can be seen from below, and migrate to warmer climates during the cold winter months.

L. C. L.

SOAP.

fac-to-ry
caus-tic
mot-tled
cal-dron
earth-en
fac-to-ries
cleans-ing
scent-ed
grease
pro-cess
glu-ti-nous
li-quid
con-vert-ed
sprin-kle
pur-pos-es

Harry Sinclair went one afternoon with his father to visit a soap factory. When they returned, his sister Annie was very eager to hear all about it, so in the evening when they were all seated round the fire, Mr. Sinclair desired Harry to give an account of what he had seen, telling him that he should not fail to correct him if he made any mistake.

'First, tell us, Harry, what soap is made of,' said Annie.

'It is made of different kinds of fat or oil mixed with soda,' said Harry. 'You know that soda is a kind of salt, and before it is used it is boiled with fresh-burnt lime to render it more caustic; water being added to this, the mixture forms what is termed the lye or ley of the soap-boiler.'

'But there are so many different kinds of soap,' said Annie; 'are they all made in the same way?'

'Not entirely,' said Harry. 'They were making *mottled* soap this afternoon, and I shall only tell you what we *saw*; papa must tell us about the other kinds.'

'Very well,' said Annie; 'but I cannot think how it is possible to turn fat or oil into soap.'

'Listen, then,' said Harry. 'They had immense heaps of odd bits of tallow and kitchen grease of all kinds, which did not smell very pleasant, I can tell you. This they melted in large iron vessels or caldrons which were heated by steam. They poured into it a quantity of the ley, and boiled the mixture for a long time, very often stirring it, till both were united into a sort of glutinous liquid.'

'But soap is not a liquid,' said Annie.

'It is not finished yet,' said Harry. 'To turn it into a solid they threw in a quantity of salt, which drew out all the water of the ley. This they pumped away, and added fresh ley, doing this again and again until the whole of the grease was converted into soap.'

'How did they make these blue marks we see in mottled soap?' said Annie.

'They sprinkle a certain liquid on the surface while it is boiling, which sinks and marbles, or mottles, the whole,' said Harry, 'and it is cooled by being poured into large earthen pans, where it becomes a solid mass. This mass is cut up by wires into those bars of soap which you see in the shops. Have I told them correctly, papa?'

'Yes, I think you have on the whole, Harry.'

'Now, papa, you must please tell us how the other kinds are made,' said Annie.

'The general process is very much the same,' said Mr. Sinclair. '*Soft* soap is made by putting potash instead of soda with the fat. For *curd* soap only pure white tallow is used, and with this various scented oils are mixed to produce the various kinds. The liquid is poured into moulds, and those little cakes are formed which we often see.'

'I should think they must make large quantities to supply everybody,' said Mrs. Sinclair.

'Yes,' said her husband, 'we make more than 200,000,000 lbs. of soap in Great Britain every year, as it is largely used in our woollen, cotton, and linen factories, as well as in our houses for cleansing purposes.'

L. C. L.

GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS.

isth-mus
head-land
o-cean
ex-cept
strait
plough-ed
sum-mits
val-ley
val-leys
pen-in-su-la
isl-ands
e-nough
hun-dreds
gen-e-ral-ly
con-tin-ents

This firm, dry land on which we walk has the sea dashing against it all the way round, little as we think of it. In a ship we might pass all round England and Scotland. All such lands are called *islands*. Some are big, some little; some mere specks on the ocean not big enough for a man to live upon, others are hundreds of miles long.

A *country* is the name we generally give to any part of the land where a single nation lives, that has its own laws, customs, and language.

But some parts of the land are so large that they contain several countries and races of people. We, therefore, call them *continents*. There are but four such in the world, Europe, Asia, Africa, and America.

When we travel in the train we often go a long way through ploughed fields where the land is flat. Such land is called a *plain*. Many plains are covered with rich, ripe corn, but some are covered with burning sand.

But all the land is not flat, as some of you know. In some parts it rises up steep and rough, and reaches the very clouds. These high parts are called *hills*, or, if they are very high, *mountains*. The very highest are covered with ice and snow all the year round, for it is always very cold on their summits.

When hills or mountains are a little way from each other, the low ground between is called a *valley*.

Any land which has the sea nearly all the way round it is called a *peninsula*. Spain and Italy, you will notice, are like this.

If the piece of land which joins the peninsula to the rest is very narrow, it is called an *isthmus*; see what a little bit of land joins Africa to Asia. It is the Isthmus of Suez.

The wild sea dashes up against the land and breaks and washes many parts away, leaving the rough, sharp rocks running out a long distance. These are called *capes* or *headlands*.

The wide, wide waters which roll round the world we call the *ocean*, or the *oceans*, for we count five of them. These waters are salt, and are never at rest, and from them the sun draws up fresh water for us all.

Any smaller parts of these great salt waters are called *seas*.

A *river* is a stream of fresh water. It begins most often as a little stream upon a mountain side, and grows larger and larger as other streams run into it. Then it runs into the sea, out of which every drop of it came at first.

In some low parts of the land the waters have collected in great bodies: these are called *lakes* They have land all round them, except, perhaps, where some stream runs into them or out of them. Some are small; others are so large that big ships sail over them.

In some parts the sea reaches a long way into the land. This part of the sea is called a *gulf* or *bay*.

Some seas are almost parted from other seas near them, but have narrow passages leading from one to another. These narrow sea-passages are called *straits*. R. McW.

DEER.

va-ri-ous
grace-ful
e-nor-mous
ca-pa-ble
en-tire-ly
sens-i-ble
ex-cept-ing
ant-ler
cul-ti-vate
pre-serv-ed
roe-buck
pur-su-ed
gi-raffe
ven-i-son
ex-cel-lent

The various kinds of deer are to be found in almost every part of the world. They belong to the class of animals which chew the cud like the ox, but the deer tribe make a sort of jerk or hiccup while doing it.

The form of these animals is very graceful. Their limbs are slender but strong, and they are noted for their fleetness and for the enormous bounds they are capable of making. They have soft, sparkling, sensible eyes, and are very quick at smelling and hearing. The males only have horns, the females being entirely without them, excepting in the case of the female reindeer, which, in the winter, has to seek her food beneath the surface of the snow, and is assisted in doing so by her broad, flat antlers. The horns of the deer tribe, unlike those of the ox and goat, fall off and grow again every year. They are each year larger than before, until the animal is about five or six years old. These horns grow very rapidly; a full-grown horn weighs about twenty-four pounds, the whole of which mass of bone is produced in about ten weeks.

Several kinds of deer, as the fallow deer, for instance, appear to be furnished with a double pair of nostrils, having a sort of long slit beneath each eye, which can be opened and shut at pleasure. These are very useful to them when they are hard run by the hunters, giving them a greater breathing power, and also enabling them to keep their nostrils and mouth under water a long time while drinking. They do not often drink, except in very hot, dry summer weather, being mostly content with the dew and the juices of their food. They are good swimmers. Their food is grass and the young branches and shoots of trees, but the reindeer is obliged to content itself with moss.

The red deer and the fallow deer were formerly found wild in our English forests. But as our large forests have been destroyed, and more land is now tilled, they are now only to be found preserved in the parks of rich persons, who take great care of them. The roebuck, a smaller kind of deer, is found wild in the Highlands of Scotland. The male of the red deer is called the stag, and the hunting of this beautiful creature has always been a favourite amusement among the upper classes, and a noble breed of dogs—the old stag-hound—is kept for this purpose. When, pursued by the stag-hounds for many miles at a very great speed, he begins to tire, he tries by various arts to avoid the hunters, sometimes standing in the water so as to show nothing but the tip of his nose. When all means of escape fail him, he will turn round and stand at bay, striking with all his might at the first dog or man that comes near; but he is, of course, soon overcome and slain.

Those kinds of deer which inhabit the colder parts of the earth are mostly larger, and have longer and stronger horns than others. Such are the elk, or moose deer, found in the marshy forests of the old and new worlds. It is sometimes ten feet high, and its horns have been known to weigh over fifty pounds. The giraffe, or camel-leopard, is a kind of deer. With its very long neck and legs and its slanting back, it can reach the topmost branches of the trees. But by far the most useful animal of this tribe is the reindeer, which has been given by Providence to the people of the far north, serving them as beasts of burden, and affording them milk, food, and clothing. Nearly all the animals of the deer tribe are timid and harmless unless attacked, and their flesh, which is called venison, is excellent eating.

L. C. L.

UNSELFISHNESS.

vil-lage
u-su-al
earn-est
tongues
ex-am-ine
dil-i-gence
re-ceiv-ing
un-self-ish
an-swer-ing
de-light-ed
com-pan-ions
Wed-nes-day
vic-ar-age
er-rands
straw-ber-ries

It was half-past four o'clock one bright summer afternoon, and the lane leading from the Heathfield village school was quite alive with groups of children just set free. They were walking much more slowly than usual, and talking together in a very busy, earnest way. Chatter, chatter, chatter—one would think they had something very important to talk about. And so they had; for Miss Greenway, their schoolmistress, had told them just before she closed school, that next week, on Wednesday, the vicar was coming to examine them on what they had been learning during the past half-year; and that the following day, Thursday, they were to have their school-treat in the grounds of Heathfield Hall, when the prizes for diligence at lessons would be given away.

This school-treat was the great event of the year—a bright happy day, looked forward to by the children long before, and most of all by those who hoped and strove to gain the prizes; for they would be honoured by being called from among their school-fellows to the drawing-room windows of the Hall and receiving their well-earned rewards from the hands of Mrs. Ellison herself. So no wonder they had so much to talk about as they loitered homewards that summer afternoon.

'Oh! Hester Grey,' said little Maria Wilkins, running up to her, 'are not you glad Sarah Johnson has been staying away from school lately, because you'll get the prize? I'm very glad, and so are all we second-class girls, for Sarah speaks so sharply to us, and looks down upon us because we are not in the first class. But then she is so quick at answering, she would be sure to get it if she had been at school.'

'No, dear,' replied Hester, 'I'm not glad. Of course I should be delighted to get the prize; father and mother would think so much of it, and be so pleased. And my aunt Harriet (she's my godmother, too, you know) promised me a purple merino frock if I got, as she calls it, to the top of the tree. But for all that, I'm very sorry for poor Sarah Johnson. She is more clever than I am, and I should not feel happy in having the prize when I know she deserves it more than I. I only wish she could come to school.'

'Well, I declare, you do talk nonsense, Hester,' said Jane Benson; 'I know if I were in your place, I should be very glad for Sarah to be kept at home, and leave *me* the first chance. Anyway, I hope you'll get it.'

'And so do I,' cried a little fourth-class girl, who had come up and heard the last few words, 'and so do all our class. We all like Hester Grey; she plays with us so nicely.'

'Yes,' chimed in another, 'and she put away a nice picture-book she was looking at in the playground one day, to help me with my knitting. A lot of stitches had got down —oh! ever so far—and it was all in a mess. It took Hester all the play-hour to get it right, but she did it, and I finished the socks quite well after. They were for our Willie. Yes, I hope she'll get the first-class prize.'

Before the end of these speeches Hester had said 'Good afternoon' to her companions, and gone to her two younger sisters, Fanny and Nellie, who were some distance behind, deep in the glories of the games, swings, plum-cake and tea they hoped to enjoy next Thursday at the Hall. 'Come, dears,' said Hester, 'let us make haste home; mother may want us. Baby was rather tiresome this morning, and I expect she's tired;' and taking a hand of each, they were soon at their own door.

How fast those little tongues ran on as the children sat round the tea-table, Hester nursing the baby and the mother pouring out the tea! Then Hester told her mother all about Sarah Johnson, and her own feelings about the prize; and her mother said, 'My dear, you know that much as I should be pleased at your receiving the reward, I should not like you to have it unless it really belonged to you by right; and I am thankful to see you so unselfish as to be sorry that poor Sarah seems to be losing her chance of the prize. But I must go and pack some eggs for you to take to the vicarage. Mrs. Duncan called and ordered them to-day, and I promised to send them soon after you left school.

Going to the vicarage on such errands as these was a great treat to Mrs. Grey's children, especially to Hester, for Mrs. Duncan took a great interest in the gentle, obliging little girl, and Hester always felt happier for the lady's kind words. Then the grounds round the house were a pretty sight to see; and very often a little present of fruit was laid in the empty egg-basket, for the children to eat going along or to take home, as they chose. Hester's eyes brightened as she thought of the pleasure before her, and prepared for her walk. Fanny and Nellie were both anxious to go too, but when Mrs. Grey said, 'One of you must stay and mind the baby while I finish ironing,' and Hester saw their downcast faces, she said, 'Oh, mother, I forgot that. I'm sure Fanny will take care of the eggs; and if you can trust her, please let her and Nelly go, and I'll stay at home with you.' So, kissing their kind sister, the happy little girls started on their walk, and Hester did all she could to help her mother. After a while, the two children returned, bringing a kind message from Mrs. Duncan, and a large leaf of strawberries, which they shared with their elder sister and the baby, and soon afterwards went to bed. By-and-by, when baby was asleep, and father's supper quite ready, Hester asked her mother's leave to go for a little while to see Sarah Johnson.

It was still early in the evening when Hester rapped at the door of the cottage where Sarah, who was an orphan, lived with her grandmother. The old lady was very kind to Sarah. She had taken care of her for some years, and always sent her to school; but just lately she had been so ill that Sarah had been obliged to stay at home to attend upon her.

'Well, Sarah,' said Hester, 'I'm come to ask how your grandmother is, and bring her these few strawberries. Mrs. Duncan gave them to Fanny and Nelly, and I thought she would enjoy them.'

'You're very kind, I'm sure,' said Sarah. 'I think she's a great deal better, but I don't see why I can't go to school.'

'Well, Sarah, but you would not like her left alone yet, I think; she has been so ill.'

'Oh! of course *you* will say that, Hester,' said Sarah, hastily; 'you want to get the prize yourself.'

'Oh, Sarah! I'm so sorry if you think so; you don't know how grieved I have been that you were obliged to stay at home, and I was going to say, that if you will let me take your place in the mornings next week, you can go to school and get up the lessons, and I can go in the afternoons. I know mother will let me; and the new rule in sums Miss Greenway taught us, I will show you now if you like.'

Sarah looked pleased; and they were soon busy with their slates, when Mr. Duncan called in to enquire about old Mrs. Johnson. Seeing the two girls so busy, he enquired what they were doing. And Sarah, who was not an ill-natured girl on the whole, told him all about it, and with a kind 'good night' he left them at their work.

When the long expected day came round Sarah got the prize, and none rejoiced more than Hester Grey. Then came the school-treat, and Sarah Johnson was called up to receive her prize. Other prizes followed for the lower classes, and the children, thinking that part of the day's business was over, were anxious to return to their play, when Mr. Duncan said, 'Stay, children, Mrs. Ellison has still one beautiful prize to give, and I will tell you why. Some days ago, I was inside a cottage in the school-lane, and I overheard a great deal of talk among the girls outside. That same evening one of those girls denied herself a great pleasure that her sisters might enjoy it instead ; and later still, I found the same girl helping another with her sums, when but for that other, she herself would have gained the prize. That girl, who is to receive this beautiful book, is the unselfish Hester Grey.'

M. M. W.

A CANDLE.

ex-pens-ive
com-mon-est
pleas-ant-est
gas-lights
fac-to-ry
par-af-fine
man-u-fac-ture
im-pu-ri-ties
com-pos-ite
em-ploy-ed
art-i-fi-cial
cyl-in-der
occu-pi-ed
ma-te-ri-als
sperm-a-ce-ti

During the day we seldom require any light beyond that derived from the sun; but when the darkness of night sets in, we cannot pursue our usual employments without some artificial light. Gaslights are most commonly used in all large towns for lighting up the streets, shops, and houses; but candles are also very generally employed in our homes. The time for lighting up the candles is mostly the pleasantest in the day; the toil is usually over, and father, mother, and children meet together around the fireside. We have all seen a candle, and know that it is shaped like a cylinder or rod, and that its length varies generally from about six to twelve inches. The central part is occupied by a wick, usually made of twisted or plaited cotton, but sometimes of other materials. The outer part of the candle is made of tallow, or some other kind of fat, or wax. Tallow is obtained from the fat of the sheep and ox, and of this substance the commonest and coarsest candles are made. They burn very quickly, often smell badly, and require constant snuffing. There are several other kinds of candles, made from purer sorts of fat, and from wax. The oils most commonly used are spermaceti, palm oil, cocoanut oil, and paraffine. The better kinds of candles, made from these substances, do not need snuffing, and they afford a superior light. There are many names given to the different kinds, but those chiefly used are *dips*, *composites*, and *wax* candles. Dips are manufactured from the common tallow, which is cut into small pieces and melted; the scum is taken off, the liquid fat strained through a coarse sieve, and after the impurities have settled at the bottom, the melted tallow is fit for use. Wicks made of cotton are arranged on sticks, on a frame of the same size as the vessel containing the tallow, and each frame is let down into the tallow and pressed, so that all the wicks are dipped into it, and thus the wicks become coated with a thin layer of tallow. Another frame passes down into the tallow, and the wicks become covered in the same way, and so one frame after another passes down into the tallow. In the meantime, the tallow becomes hardened upon those wicks which have been exposed to the air, and when their turn comes they are dipped again into the tallow, and so on, until the candles become as thick and large as they are required to be. So now you see why these are called 'dips.' The wicks of as many candles as weigh a pound are strung together, and sold for about sixpence. England imports large quantities of tallow from Russia, and other countries round the Baltic Sea. Composite candles were first made in England in 1840; but this manufacture has improved greatly since that time. Cocoanut oil and palm oil are largely used in making composite candles. There is a large factory in London where about a thousand men are constantly employed in making them. The usual price of a pound is about ninepence. There have not been so many improvements in the making of wax candles as in that of composites. They are manufactured chiefly by hand, and are expensive. They are much used in lighting churches, and the houses of the rich. We read of candles being used in England by King Alfred to measure time, as there were then no clocks or watches in the country. This good king invented candles which burnt twelve hours each.

M. A. F.

THE SUNSHINE.

stream-eth
clo-ver-y
molt-en
case-ment
gra-cious
twin-ing
crys-tal
haunts
breez-y
ev-er-y-where
coun-ten-ance
glo-ri-ous
chequ-er-ed
stretch-ing
bath-ed

I love the sunshine everywhere,
In wood, and field, and glen;
I love it in the busy haunts
Of town-imprisoned men.

I love it, when it streameth in
To humble cottage door,
And casts the chequered casement shade
Upon the red-brick floor.

I love it, where the children lie
Deep in the clovery grass,
To watch among the twining roots
The gold-green beetle pass.

I love it, on the breezy sea,
To glance on sail and oar,
While the great waves, like molten glass,
Come leaping to the shore.

I love it on the mountain tops,
Where lies the thawless snow;
And half a kingdom, bathed in light,
Lies stretching out below.

Oh! yes, I love the sunshine!
Like kindness, or like mirth,
Upon a human countenance,
Is sunshine o'er the earth.

Upon the earth, upon the sea,
And through the crystal air,
Or piled up clouds, the gracious sun
Is glorious everywhere.

MARY HOWITT.

THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS.

car-ri-age
re-mem-ber
rap-id-ly
mo-tion
grad-u-al-ly
trav-el-ling
bus-i-ness
nu-mer-ous
com-par-ed
shin-ing
sup-ply
rail-way
in-stead
some-times
win-dow

I dare say you go to bed sometimes feeling half afraid of the darkness, and wake up in the morning glad to find it gone and the beautiful light there instead.

Where has the light come from, and why cannot we have it always? Let us try to find out.

The light comes from the sun. But what is the sun? It is a very large body, more than a million times greater than our earth; and so far away, that it would take a bird one hundred and eighty years to reach it, if it flew a mile every minute. And yet the light and heat from it reach us, warm our bodies, cause the seeds to spring up and the plants to grow, and make the world a bright and beautiful place to live in. If the sun were to cease shining we should die, for nothing can live without its light and heat.

The sun appears to us to be moving round our earth, but really it is not so. It stands in the centre, while the earth and the other heavenly bodies move round it.

If you have ever looked out of the window of a railway carriage while the train was rushing along, you will remember that the carriage has appeared still, while the houses, trees, and roads have seemed to fly rapidly from you. Yet you know it is the train which moves, not the things you see outside it. So it is with the earth and the sun. The latter does not move, but the earth moves so swiftly that we feel no motion, and fancy it is the sun that moves.

Now let us see why we have not the light and heat of the sun always. When your mother sets a joint of meat down to roast she does not let it stand still before the fire. Why? Because, in that case, one side of the joint would be overdone while the other side would not be done at all. Your mother, therefore, keeps the meat turning round and round that every part may receive equal heat. Now, think of the sun as the fire, and of our earth as the substance to be warmed by it. Every part must have its share of light and heat. But the earth is a ball; it cannot be opened and spread out that the sun may shine on all parts at once. What is to be done then? It must be made to turn round as your mother's joint does. It *does* turn round once every day, and so every part gets a share of sunlight. One half is light while the other is dark. The light part gradually passes away from the sun and becomes dark, while the dark part passes before the sun and becomes light.

It is morning in any place when it is turning to the sun; noon, when it has the full light and heat; evening, when it is passing from the sun, and night when it is quite turned away from it. You see, do you not, that if we had sunshine always, other lands would have none at all.

But even when we are turned from the sun we have some light. Our earth has near it, and travelling along with it, another body that has no light in itself, but whose business it is to catch the sunlight and then reflect or throw it back upon the earth. This is the moon.

Besides this, the moon draws the waters of the earth after it, and causes what we call the tides.

But we have other bodies besides the moon to make our nights pleasant—all those countless stars we see hanging like 'diamonds in the sky.' We do not see them in the day because the bright sunshine hides them, and when we see them most clearly, they seem but tiny things. That is because they are so far away.

They are really great suns, with worlds travelling round them, as our earth does round its sun. And they are so numerous that the most we can ever see are only few compared with those we cannot see.

S. C. C.

THE EARTH.

un-der-stand
jour-ney
fig-ures
per-haps
au-tumn
won-der-ful
im-mense
hol-lows
di-a-monds
isl-ands
ter-ri-ble
vol-ca-no
vol-ca-noes
ris-ings
an-oth-er

Wouldn't it seem odd if you tossed a ball into the air to see it stay there without anything to hold it up, or to rest upon, spinning round and round, never stopping to rest, never falling? You say that couldn't be, the ball would fall as soon almost as it was thrown up, it could not stay there spinning round and round as you suppose. Perhaps not, and yet strange to say that is just what our earth is doing.

The earth is, you know, a great globe or ball. It is placed in empty space, with nothing above it to hold it up and nothing below it on which to rest. Yet it never falls, but keeps moving along a path it knows quite well round another ball far larger than itself, at the same time spinning itself round like a great top. Make a chalk circle in your yard or play-ground, and try to keep turning your body round and at the same time move round the chalk circle till you reach that part of it from which you started. You will then understand how the earth is always moving in two ways at once.

The earth is so large that it takes it a whole day, or twenty-four hours, to turn round once. The journey it takes round the sun is so long, that though it is begun with the new year it is not ended until we are ready again to wish each other 'A Happy New Year.' Is not that a long time? A whole year, or three hundred and sixty-five days. And yet after this long journey the earth never stops a moment to rest, but sets out at once on its way over the same path again.

Though it is so long going round the sun you must not suppose that it creeps slowly along. Oh no! in one little minute, while you are putting down a few figures, or perhaps doing nothing, the earth goes seventeen miles. And it has never wasted a minute since God sent it on its first journey, though it is now many thousand years old. I wonder what boy or girl can say the same!

Now let us see why the earth takes and *must* take this journey. And why it must also turn itself round.

It travels round the sun that we may each year have a spring, a summer, an autumn, and a winter. It turns itself round and round before the sun as it goes along, in order that we may have day and night, or light and darkness. When you get older try to find out how the earth's movements can cause these changes. We have spoken of the earth's wonderful journeys, let us now find out of what it is made. Deep down inside there is supposed to be an immense fire. It is covered over with a very thick crust. This crust is made of layers of hard rock or stone, laid one upon the other, and covered in some parts with a thick soft coat of earth or mould.

The fire inside the earth has pushed up the crust in many places and caused it to sink in in others. The crust is not therefore smooth, but full of hollows in some parts and great risings in others.

These hollows, instead of being covered with earth or mould, are filled like great basins with water. The high parts of the earth's crust we call land. We say the earth is made up of land and water.

The water fills the hollows, and seems to divide the land into many parts. These parts are called by different names. When the water goes quite round the land, that land is called an island; when it goes nearly round it, it is called a peninsula, and so on.

The water of the earth is divided in the same way and called also by various names, as oceans, seas, rivers, &c.

Both the dry land and the water are full of precious things.

When men dig deep down in the earth they find gold, silver, coal, iron, diamonds, and precious stones. In the soft soil they sow seeds from which spring up plants, flowers, fruits, and trees of all kinds, without which men and beasts could not live.

Then, what treasures the waters hold! Fish of all sorts, plants more strange and beautiful than those on land, fair pearls and shells of wondrous form and colour, great whales and terrible sea monsters, tiny insects, so small as scarcely to be noticed, yet so numerous and busy that they make large islands in the ocean; all these are found in the waters, with many more I have not time to name.

Upon the top of the waters the great ships sail to and fro, carrying treasures from land to land.

Upon the land live men of different nations and colours; and animals, insects, and birds of various sorts.

And over land and sea the great sun, the gentle moon, and the fair stars shine, bringing light, and heat, and life to all living things.

When you are older and know more of earth's wonders, when you have read of its snowy mountains, its burning volcanoes and boiling springs, its islands of ice, its many strange plants and animals, you will see that the wise king who said the earth and sea were full of God's riches, spoke truly though he did not know half as much about them as we may if we will read and observe for ourselves.

S. C. C.

THE PEACOCK.

poul-try
bar-ley
tur-keys
beau-ty
stag-ger
de-fects
sol-emn
plu-mage
house-wives
mu-sic
dec-o-rate
scratch-ing
trail-ing
hand-some
man-a-ged

The peacock is always found near the poultry-yard; for he has to be fed, like the common fowls, with barley and scraps of meat. Indeed, we can hardly fancy such a finely-dressed bird getting his own living by scratching in the dirt and mud. Fancy how you would like to work for food, while you were obliged to wear a dress with a train a yard long trailing on the ground. I suppose the peacocks who live wild in North India manage to find their own food; but that is a drier country than this, so their tails are not in their way.

Perhaps you never saw a peacock. If not, you must try to fancy one. The body is about the size of a large hen's or a small turkey's, but more slender. The head is small, and has a tuft of feathers on it that forms a sort of crest or crown. The feathers are very glossy, and look blue or green or golden, just as the light happens to fall on them. But the tail is the strange part of the bird. Some of the feathers are, as I said, a yard long; the colours are very beautiful, and at the end of each is a mark that looks something like an eye, only it is green and purple, with golden-brown edges. The peacock seems to know that he is a very handsome fellow, for he likes to walk with a stately step across a lawn, where his long tail brushes on the grass without harm; or to stand on a block of stone, or a post, so that this same fine train of his can hang down and be seen easily. Then, if any one looks at him, and says, 'What a fine bird!' he will turn round and set up his tail like a fan, and look quite proud and pleased. Indeed, when a girl is proud of gay clothes, we often say, 'She is as proud as a peacock.' There are two drawbacks to the peacock's beauty. One is his walk. The weight of his tail always seems to trouble him, and when it is spread out he can hardly step at all, because the wind catches the great fan of feathers and even makes the bird stagger at times. The other defect is a very harsh voice. The first time you hear one of these birds cry, you will most likely fancy that some one is being hurt very much, and calling out in pain.

At one time these birds were killed and cooked for great feasts. The head and tail were used to decorate the dish in which the bird lay, and it was placed on the table while grand music was played. If any one wished to make a very solemn promise, he used to stand up and vow 'by the peacock' to do what he promised; and if he broke this vow, none of his friends would have anything to say to him afterwards.

Peacocks are seldom eaten now. Sometimes one is put on the table, but it is more for show than use. Since those old times, the common fowls have been so well managed and fattened, that they are much nicer to eat than peacocks.

The peahen is not nearly so gay as her mate. Her plumage is mostly brown, marked with white, and her tail is not very long or handsome. But I suppose this is because she has to trot about with the little pea-chicks, and keep them in order. A long train would be a trouble to her. Good housewives never wear long gowns to work in. S.

A CUP AND SAUCER.

sau-cer
ex-am-in-ed
dif-fer-ent
in-fe-ri-or
prin-ci-pal
porce-lain
Port-u-guese
in-tro-du-ced
sat-is-fi-ed
ac-ci-dent
earth-en-ware
an-ces-tors
gen-e-ral-ly
pot-ter-y
pot-ter-ies

The earthenware cup and saucer of the present day are very different from those used in olden times by our ancestors, who were content with drinking-vessels made of horn or leather. It is only lately that earthenware cups have been generally used in England.

If we are rich and can afford to pay a great deal of money for them, we may have them brought from China, France, or Dresden, or we may be satisfied with the best that England can produce from the potteries of Worcestershire or Staffordshire.

The finest kinds are clear enough for light to pass through, yet not so clear as glass, and these strictly speaking are called China or porcelain.

The bright glazed surface of a cup and saucer is a most useful quality, as it prevents liquids from passing through them. All the cups which are made now, are made with handles, by which means they can be more easily raised to the mouth: those made many years ago were without this useful addition.

The Chinese were the first people who made porcelain, and it is known to have been in use among them long before the birth of Christ.

The Portuguese brought it into Europe more than three hundred years ago, and the first attempt to make it was at Dresden in Saxony. It was greatly inferior to the Chinese porcelain, but accident at last revealed the secret of success. A rich man was one day riding through a part of Saxony, and observed that his horse's feet sank deep in a soft, white-looking earth. It struck him at once that this white earth would do instead of flour for powdering wigs; for flour was then very dear, and almost every one wore a powdered wig. He collected some of the earth, sold it for hair-powder, and among others who bought it was a man named Böttger, who, observing a difference in it from the common sort, examined it, saw that it was earthy in its nature, and at last, found that it was the very clay for which he had been so long looking to make the famous China. He started a factory at Dresden, and when once it was known that it could be made in Europe, the people of every country tried to make it, and soon the French succeeded in producing a very beautiful kind of China at Sevres.

The making of earthenware in England was brought to great perfection by Josiah Wedgewood, whose good fortune was due, not to happy accident, but to the most untiring industry. The great seat of the trade is in Staffordshire, where a district seven miles in length, enclosing many towns and villages, is known all over England by the name of 'The Potteries.' The two principal things used in making it are clay and flint. The flints are burnt until they are quite white; then they are taken to a mill and crushed to powder. The powder is beaten up in water with a fine clay obtained from Devonshire, and again and again ground until the whole forms a thick, smooth paste. It is then shaped in moulds into cups and saucers, plates, dishes, &c., which are afterwards baked in an oven to harden them. After the baking, the patterns are put on. Sometimes this is done by hand-painting, and at others transferred from paper.

Next follows the glazing, which preserves the pattern, prevents the article from crumbling to pieces by use and exposure to the air, enables it to hold water, and improves its whole appearance. Some articles have to undergo other processes, after which they are ready for use.

Sc.

THE CROCUS'S SOLILOQUY.

cheer-ing
pa-tient
dis-mal
pris-on
e-merge
di-verge
dun-geon
bos-om
pet-als
view
sol-i-tude
beau-ti-ful
ar-ray-ed
a-ris-en
gloom-i-est

Down in my solitude under the snow,
Where nothing that's cheering can reach me;
Here, without sunshine to see how to grow,
I'll trust to fond Nature to teach me.

I will not despair, nor be idle, nor frown,
Though lock'd in so gloomy a dwelling;
My leaves shall run up, and my roots shall run down,
While the bud in my bosom is swelling.

Soon as the frost will get out of my bed,
And from this cold dungeon will free me;
I shall peer up with my bright little head,
And all will be joyful to see me.

Then from my heart will my petals diverge,
As rays of the sun from their focus;
And I from the darkness of earth will emerge,
A happy and beautiful crocus.

Gaily arrayed in my yellow and green,
When I to their view have arisen;
Will they not wonder how one so serene,
Came forth from so dismal a prison!

Yet many, perhaps, from so simple a flower,
This true little lesson may borrow;
If patient to-day through its gloomiest hour,
They may come out the brighter to-morrow.

Hannah Fanny Gould.

THE CAMEL.

ter-ri-ble
bright
farth-er
con-trive
teas-ed
cov-er-ed
bub-bles
thirst
hold-ing
glove
stom-ach
des-ert
leath-ern
path-less
ly-ing

Far away, in Africa, there is a terrible place called the Great Desert, where no one can live, for the sun always shines hot and bright, and no rain ever falls to cool the earth, or make plants spring and grow. When people come to the borders of that land, it seems as if they could never go farther, or reach the men who may live on the other side; for they know that if one could walk on and on for many weeks there would still be miles of burning, dry dust and sand to cross, with no water and no shade.

Yet they do contrive to get across by the help of the camel, an animal that God has placed there for men to tame and use, as we do the horse. The camel likes to walk on hot dry sand or stones; for his feet are so formed that these do not hurt him. Each foot has a pad beneath it, made of fat, and covered with thick skin. The skin is like a thick glove, which keeps the foot from being burnt; and the fat keeps the skin soft and moist, so that it does not crack with the heat, as a horse's hoof would. There are pads of skin, too, on those parts of the body that touch the ground when the animal is lying down.

As there is no rain in the desert, of course there is very little water. In a few places, hundreds of miles apart, a spring bubbles up from the rocks, and the water runs a little way before the dry sand sucks it in. Round these springs a few trees grow, and a little coarse grass. But these places are very rare, and even the long-legged camel could not go from one spring to the next, but would die of thirst on the way, if he did not carry a stock of food and water with him. In his oddly-shaped body there are three bags for holding water until he is thirsty; then he can let some of the water into his stomach, so that he does not want to drink. On his back there is a large mass of fat, called the hump. When the animal is kept long without food, the hump gets smaller and smaller, but he does not die of hunger until all this lump of fat is gone. Sometimes a camel can go for nearly a week without food or water.

When men wish to cross the desert they get a number of camels, and give them a good feed, and let them drink as much as they can. They pack their goods in large parcels and sling them over the backs of some of the animals, one parcel on each side; others are laden with large leather bottles full of water for the men. Then they start on their way across the great waste, where no road can be made because of the dry sand and dust that covers everything. It is so like going across the wide, pathless sea, that the Arabs call the camels 'ships of the desert.' The men find their way by noticing where the sun rises and sets, just as sailors do at sea.

Often the wind rises and blows great clouds of sand along, so that they must stop and cover their faces with their cloaks, lest they should be blinded or choked. The camels know the danger, and kneeling down, cover their eyes with their large lids, and draw over their nostrils a piece of skin, very like an eyelid, that seems made and placed over them on purpose. When the storm is over, they all rise, and go on again till night. Then they rest, and the Arabs take their supper from the store of food and water that the camels have carried on their backs.

Camels are very gentle to men, unless they are teased or over-laden; but they often kick and bite each other. They will bear a heavy load, even until they fall down tired and half dead. When once they fall they cannot often be made to rise again, but will lie there and die. It is sad to know that the Arabs sometimes find their way across the desert by looking in the sand for the bones of camels that have gone before, and have broken down on the way. S.

WOOD.

fur-ni-ture
neith-er
res-in
al-co-hol
re-sem-ble
cen-tre
e-nough
ex-am-ine
ve-neer-ing
pre-fer-red
com-bus-tion
suf-fi-cient
quan-ti-ties
ma-hog-an-y
build-ing

The solid part of trees which lies beneath the outer covering or bark is called wood. The name *timber* is often given to wood suited for building, or for making furniture and other useful articles, and also to large trees whilst they are growing. In some cases wood has neither taste nor smell, and in others it has colour, taste, and smell, which is to be accounted for by its containing different substances such as gum, resin, and a spirit called alcohol. When it is dry it suffers no change from the action of the air, but when damp it decays, passing through many states till it becomes a black mould. When it is buried in the earth, and the air kept from it, it decays very slowly, even though the ground may be damp. Wood, when lighted, will readily burn, and this burning is called combustion.

A very large portion of the wood used in England is brought from the countries north of Europe, and from America, and some also from the East Indies. Though many timber trees of great value are grown in this country still the supply of wood is not enough for our wants.

If we examine a portion of the trunk of a tree, we shall find it consist of the *pith*, the *wood*, and the *bark*. All timber trees belong to a tribe of plants which gain their increase by addition to the outer parts, therefore the wood of the oldest growth is found in the centre of the tree, and the several layers are younger the further they lie from the centre. The centre of the heart-wood is occupied by the pith, and there is a passage between the pith and the bark by little tubes or veins, which pass through the wood from the centre to the outer portion of the tree, and serve to convey the sap through the wood. Each year there is a fresh layer of wood formed beneath the bark; we have only therefore to count how many rings there are from the centre to the outside, to learn how old the tree is. Coal once existed in the form of wood, and pieces of coal have been found with the same kind of marks as these rings which are seen in wood, and by counting these, people have been able to tell how old the tree was when it began to be changed into coal.

Wood is very valuable in the construction of houses, furniture, ships, &c. In every country the native timber is preferred, if it can be got in sufficient quantities at a cheap rate. The wood of the *oak* tree is the most valuable grown in Britain; formerly it was much more abundant than it now is, and was used almost entirely in house-building, and for furniture, but now it is employed only in the largest and best buildings, as it is much scarcer than it was, and a great quantity is used for ship-building. *Teak* wood, brought from India, is also used for the same purpose; it much resembles oak. *Fir*, or *pine* wood, ranks next to oak in importance. It is used in every part of house-building, and for the masts of ships. This kind of wood when cut up is called *deal.* Large quantities are sent to England from Norway, Sweden, and Canada. The Scotch fir produces the same kind of wood, but this tree grows not only in Scotland, but also on all the mountain ranges of Europe. *Mahogany* is the most useful wood next to oak and fir. It is obtained from the West Indies and South America. The wood is dark, hard, fine-grained, and admits of a splendid polish. It is used more than any other wood in making furniture. *Elm* is a coarse-grained, strong, and durable wood, but is not much used because it is hard to work. It is employed for making coffins, chests, casks, and other things requiring strength. *Beech* is employed for making cheap furniture, handles of tools, and for turning. *Ash* is a strong wood and very light, but it splits easily. It is used for making carts, wheels, farming implements, and oars. There are many other valuable woods used in furniture-making and veneering—such as walnut, rose-wood, box, ebony, cherry-tree wood, maple, turnip-wood, tulip-wood, zebra-wood, &c. Most of these admit of a beautiful polish. It is necessary that wood should be cut down for a long time before it is used, in order to dry it, for if used 'green' it is liable to shrink and warp. The best timber is usually that which is most firm, and in which the tree has been allowed to complete its growth before it has been cut down. This sort of wood is generally strong and durable.

Wood is used as fuel where no coal can be obtained, but now it is little employed in England for this purpose. M. A. F.

SINCERITY.

flat-ter	mis-er-y	boun-ti-ful
friend	prod-i-gal	flat-ter-ing
ad-dict	com-pan-y	faith-ful
en-tice	where-with	for-tune
fawn-ed	re-nown	ev-er-y

Every one that flatters thee
Is no friend in misery:
Words are easy, like the wind;
Faithful friends are hard to find:
Every man will be thy friend,
While thou hast wherewith to spend;
But if store of crowns be scant,
No man will supply thy want.
If that one be prodigal,
Bountiful they will him call:
If he be addict to vice,
Quickly him they will entice;
But if fortune once do frown,
Then farewell his great renown;
They that fawned on him before,
Use his company no more.
He that is thy friend indeed,
He will keep thee in thy need;
If thou sorrow he will weep;
If thou wake he cannot sleep.
Thus of every grief in heart,
He with thee doth bear a part,
These are certain signs to know,
Faithful friend from flattering foe.

THE ELEPHANT.

pic-ture
bulk-y
reach-ing
scratch-ed
pro-ject
friend-ly
car-ry-ing
marsh-y
sweet-meat
fright-en
won-der-ful
re-mark-a-ble
care-ful-ly
orn-a-ment
shoul-ders

We have all seen the picture of an elephant, so we are able to think how strange he looks, and how wonderful he is in many ways.

First, there is his huge body. No other land animal is so large. The top of his back is so high that the tallest man cannot touch it whilst standing on the ground. And as the body is thick and heavy, as well as high, we see why the legs are so thick and strong. Slender legs would not do for the elephant.

Then there is his head, which is very large and heavy for two reasons. The elephant has a very large brain, so he must have a large head to hold it; and he has great teeth that weigh forty or fifty pounds each. A long, slender neck could not carry this heavy mass of brain and bone, so the elephant has a very short, thick, strong one.

If the animal had nothing else remarkable besides his bulky body and heavy head, he would be badly off; for with a short neck he could not reach the ground to crop the grass he is so fond of. You will find that all the grass-eating animals except this have necks long enough to allow of their reaching their food with the mouth; but as the elephant cannot put his mouth down to the grass, he lifts up the grass to his mouth. This he does with his long trunk, which is so formed that he can pick up a little thing, even a single leaf, with the end of it, or can coil it round a great bundle of corn and lift that. Is it not strange that he should be able to feed himself with his nose? For the trunk is the nose, as you will see if you look at the picture carefully; and the elephant breathes through it, and smells with it, besides using it for a hand. The elephant is very careful of his trunk, and well he may be, seeing how useful it is. If it gets scratched or hurt in any way he goes nearly wild, or mopes away and cries; and whenever he is attacked by a lion or a tiger he curls the trunk up out of harm's way, and uses only his great tusks to defend himself. These tusks are the two long, curved spikes that project from his mouth ; they look something like horns in the wrong place, but they are really two very long teeth, growing from the upper jaw. There are few animals so wise as the elephant. When he has once become friendly with anyone, he seems to understand everything that is said to him. In India, where many elephants are kept for drawing or carrying heavy loads, each animal has his own groom or keeper, and often grows very fond of him. There is a tale of an elephant who from some cause became mad with rage, and killed his keeper with a blow from his trunk. When he became quiet again, he seemed to know what he had done, and would not eat for a long time, but went away into the corner of his stable, crying like a child; and he never was so lively afterwards, and never seemed happy except when he was helping his old keeper's little daughter, or playing with her.

You may guess from this that the elephant is tamed and made useful. He is so easily taught that he will do almost anything, and often he seems to understand matters better than his master. If he has to cross a bridge or a marshy place, he will try at every step whether the ground will bear his weight, first touching and trying it with his trunk, and then putting down his foot very slowly and carefully. If anyone gives him a penny, he will make a bow, in his fashion, and give the money to his keeper; but he always expects the man to spend it for him in sweetmeats, of which he is very fond.

Most of the elephants used in India have been caught when young, and tamed. In order to catch them, two fences are built of very strong timber. These fences are half-a-mile apart at one end, but are placed so that at the other end there is only just room for one elephant to pass between them. Then the hunters find a herd or drove of elephants, and, by shouting, frighten them towards the fences, which, as they go, hedge them in closer and closer. Then, as one after another tries to get through the narrow end, they are caught by men who throw ropes round their necks and legs, tying them so that they can only struggle till they are tired. When once the animals feel that they are beaten, they take very kindly to their new life, and will even help their masters to catch others, by standing near the fences and making a noise that means, in elephant's language, 'Come along.'

The tusks of the elephant are formed of ivory. All the pretty carved ivory brooches, boxes, and ornaments that we see were made out of these great teeth, and hundreds of wild elephants are killed every year in Africa that we may have their tusks to carve into pretty shapes.

S.

THE DAISY.

beau-ties
flour-ish
Au-gust
lil-y
per-en-ni-al
hon-ours
wreathes
cul-tur-ed
car-na-tion
con-se-cra-ted
suc-ces-sion
com-pan-ion
Oc-to-ber
De-cem-ber
flow-er-et

There is a flower, a little flower,
  With silver crest and golden eye,
That welcomes every changing hour,
  And weathers every sky.

The prouder beauties of the field
  In gay but quick succession shine;
Race after race their honours yield,
  They flourish and decline.

But this small flower to nature dear,
  While moon and stars their courses run,
Wreathes the whole circle of the year,
  Companion of the sun.

It smiles upon the lap of May,
  To sultry August spreads its charms,
Lights pale October on its way,
  And twines December's arms.

The purple heath, and golden broom,
  On moory mountains catch the gale;
O'er lawns the lily sheds perfume,
  The violet in the vale;

But this bold floweret climbs the hill,
  Hides in the forest, haunts the glen,
Plays on the margin of the rill,
  Peeps round the fox's den.

Within the garden's cultured round
  It shares the sweet carnation's bed;
It blooms in consecrated ground
  In honour of the dead.

The lambkin crops its crimson gem;
  The wild bee murmurs on its breast;
The blue-fly bends its pensile stem
  Right o'er the skylark's nest.

'Tis Flora's page—in every place,
In every season fresh and fair,
It opens with perennial grace,
And blossoms everywhere.

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

THE TIGER.

pro-vid-ed
Mal-a-bar
in-hab-it
quad-ru-ped
cush-ions
pos-sess-es
dis-po-si-tion
draughts
buf-fa-loes
un-wield-y
rhi-no-ce-ros
el-e-phant
com-mit-ting
fe-ro-cious
com-mence

The tiger is an animal of the cat kind which is found mostly in Asia, Malabar, Siam, and Bengal, and is a source of great terror to the people who inhabit those countries.

It is sometimes larger than the lion but more slender; its neck and body are longer, while its legs are shorter. It has no mane, but its coat is very bright and smooth; the ground is of a tawny yellow colour, with stripes of black which commence at the upper part of the neck and end at the tip of the tail. These stripes run in the same direction as the ribs, shading off by degrees to the under part of the body, the fur of which is almost white.

Like the lion the tiger is a flesh-eating animal, and has to catch its food before it can eat it. So it has been provided with sharp claws for this purpose, but these claws are hidden from sight in some soft cushions or pads under the toes, and can be stretched out or drawn back at pleasure. When walking, the claws are always drawn in, which prevents their becoming injured, and the soft cushions enable it to move about without making a noise.

It possesses great strength, and can carry off animals of a much greater size than itself with ease. If we watch the movements of a cat when catching a mouse or rat, and magnify them in proportion to the different sizes of the animals, we shall gain a correct idea of the manner in which the tiger leaps on and seizes its prey.

In disposition it is most fierce and cruel; it does not kill merely to satisfy its hunger, but seems to delight in slaying animal after animal and drinking down large draughts of their blood. It destroys buffaloes, which are much larger than itself but very unwieldy, as well as horses, and antelopes, and will even attack the lion. It lives peaceably with the rhinoceros and elephant, but will destroy their young. It frequents the mountains, forests, and jungles, and the banks of rivers and lakes.

The female is called a tigress, and her young ones cubs. Though fierce at all times she is most so when a mother: and should her cubs be taken from the den during her absence, she will track the robber and even enter the town, committing great slaughter in her endeavour to recover them. Though so ferocious, the tiger has been known to slink away in a most cowardly manner from persons who, having suddenly met with it, have had sufficient presence of mind to look steadily in its face.

The skin of the tiger is much valued in the east; and in China the seats in public places are covered with it. as well as cushions for winter use. E. L. J.

THE LITTLE DISASTER.

Once there liv'd a little man,
  Where a little river ran,
And he had a little farm and little dairy O!
  And he had a little plough,
  And a little dappled cow,
Which he often call'd his pretty little fairy O!

His little dog he call'd Fidelle,
  Because he lov'd his master well;
And he'd a pretty little pony for his pleasure O!
  In a sty not very big,
  He'd a frisky little pig,
Which he often call'd his dirty little treasure O!

Once his little maiden, Ann,
  With her pretty little can,
Went a-milking when the morning sun was beaming O!

As she returned, I don't know how,
But she stumbled o'er the plough,
And the cow was quite astonished at her screaming O!

Little maid cried out in vain,
Whilst the milk ran o'er the plain,
Little pig ran grunting after it so gaily O!
Fidelle, not far behind,
For a share was much inclined,
So he pull'd back squeaking piggy by the taily O!

Such a clatter now began,
As quite alarm'd the little man,
Who came capering from out his little sta ble O!
Pony trod on doggy's toes,
Doggy snapp'd at piggy's nose,
Piggy made as great a noise as he was able O!

Then, to make the story short,
Little pony with a snort,
Lifted up his little heels so very clever O!
The little man came tumbling down,
And nearly crack'd his little crown,
Which only made the matter worse than ever O!

THE GOLDEN WREATH.

LONDON: PRINTED BY
SPOTTISWOODE AND CO., NEW-STREET SQUARE
AND PARLIAMENT STREET